

**San Juan National Historic Site
Free-Ranging Cat Management Plan
Public Scoping Correspondences
Public Comment Period October 20 through December 10, 2022**

Corr ID	Correspondence
1	<p>Lo que un día fue un problema multifacético de San Juan hoy es orgullo y ejemplo de organización, planificación y participación ciudadana en la solución de problemas. En lugar de deshacerse de este elaborado, arduo y consistente trabajo considero deberían usarlo como ejemplo para otros pueblos de la Isla como otros Estados. Son muchos los países, cómo Turquía, Suiza, China entre otros, que dan cátedra al mundo presentando ideas inovadoras y participativas para velar por el bienestar de los gatos, como de otros animales. Es hora de reconocer y enaltecer el trabajo realizado, no de destruirlo..</p>
2	<p>This cats so no harm to nobody. They are spayed/neutered, fed and taken care of by a wonderful humane organization. The problem in Puerto Rico is not the homeless dogs and cats; it's the government's indifference to them. Much better than removal is NPS leading the Island in a responsible and efficient plan to spay/neuter this poor abandoned animals. Please, spend your time and resources being humane and we might then learn something good from you.</p>
3	<p>Una vez más Puerto Rico mostrando lo poco compasivo que es y lo atrasado que está. Estos animalitos tienen el mismo derecho de estar en este mundo que nosotros. Ellos están en la calle gracias a que un "ser humano" fue irresponsable. En este proceso no hay nada de humanitario (El proceso es estresante para ellos.). Los van a atrapar y los llevaran directo a su MUERTE. No es justo que ellos mueran por nuestra culpa. Me pregunto, por que no hacen como en Turquía y otros países que esterilizan, vacunan y liberan. Luego, los residentes, dueños de negocio y turistas los alimentan. Esta es la mejor manera de controlar las colonias. Esto sería un trato humanitario. No la masacre que proponen.</p>
4	<p>Every time I visit the Old San Juan a visit to the paseo del Morro's cats is a must! I enjoy the view and the company of this legendary tenants in a magical setting.</p>
5	<p>I find it deplorable that the National Parks Services is looking into "humanely" remove the cats that live in Old San Juan. These cats are taken care of, vaccinated and sterilized. They pose no danger or problems to the public and live their lives as close to the edge as possible. They are an important part of the community and are deeply cherished and loved by those that visit Old San Juan. This move to dispose of them is cruel and completely unnecessary. We as Puerto Ricans have learned to care for those animals and respect their lives, we want them to thrive and live a life as comfortable as possible. They offer a certain charm to the sights and they complete Old San Juan.</p>
6	<p>These cats are part of the Old San Juan. They are neutered/spayed and cause no harm to people or places. The plague is the human being and it's ignorance and lack of compassion. A non-profit, that dedicates to cats in old San Juan have been taking care of them and make sure they get spayed. Please do not remove the cats from nowhere in Old San Juan. They belong there.</p>
7	<p>Como un país trata los animales se trata los habitantes.. Vean a Turquía, copien lo bueno..esos gatos están cuidados y registrados..indolentes</p>
8	<p>Not agree noooooo</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
9	Please don't kill the cats in San Juan PR (El Morro) they do no harm, people take care of them. The majority of them are fixed and vaccinated. It is very pleasant to walk through W1 Paseo de la Princesa and see them resting or even per some of them. They don't dirty the place nor do they attack people. You don't see rats or mice in the area. Please don't do it
10	Hi, I am deeply saddened that a plan to eliminate cats and feeding stations is being discussed. It is shameful and I am totally against it.
11	Pido de favor que no sacrifiquen los gatos del viejo San Juan no hacen daño a la comunidad al contrario mantienen el area libre de sabandijas y mucha gente le gusta verlos estan bien atendido y no molestan por favor que este gobierno no acabe con las pocas cosas bonitas que quedan
12	The government of P.R has always been abusive unhumane and indifferent towards the needs of animals abandoned and in need. The federal funds received for them so this situation can be managed with dignity, love and compassion to provide life opportunities is mostly stolen by them misleading, and diverting funds. The alternative government gives is always death. And they do not take care off the situation in a humane way at all, like they say, they never do. This practice has been their modus operandi. These cats are loved and taken cared off by everyone in San Juan. People come from lots of places just to see them and spend time with them. San Juan is their home! They do not represent any danger or menace to anyone, since organizations like Save a gato have been vaccinating, spaying and neutering them for a long time now. Without any governmental help. They do not disturb at all, on the contrary, they keep rodent's population under control. History has taught us well about this topic so we do not repeat the same mistakes! The government does not help, does not provide solutions, and on top of that,wants to destroy their lives and the work of love and compassion so many have put in to this project.
13	These cats in the Paseo Cats in San Juan do absolutely NO HARM to the community. They are fed and taken care by the community. It is inhumane to kill these innocent loving little animals. Superintendente de SAJU Attn: Paseo Cats 501 Calle Norzagaray San Juan, PR 00901
14	Son parte integral de comunidad Sanjuanera. Amados y atendidos. La visita es visita.
15	I am Puerto Rican and go to San Juan once a year. I usually stay in Old San Juan. I go there to see friends and for work meetings. The cats are part of the community and carefully picked up, spayed/neutered, and an ear is clipped to identify the ones already taken care of. It is impressive to see how much effort the volunteers make. This is an organization called Save a Gato that is volunteer run and cares for the cats' health. The cats are beautiful creatures that bring joy to many. After Maria and until today, cats and other local animals brought solace in the midst of trauma and damage to familiar spaces including Old San Juan. As they do in other cities where cats are loved and respected, such as Istanbul, they are also attractive for visitors. I also saw this dynamic in Morocco. They were integrated into the communities in the Medinas. Killing a large number of innocent cats beloved by locals and amusing for visitors would be a needless and cruel act. What people need is for FEMA aid to be disbursed, for infrastructure to be repaired, for help so that small businesses stay open, for

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>hospitals, etc. Killing cats will also appall many visitors from the US and abroad. Cats are not rats, they are often domestic animals, loving, and in some cases play a role eliminating rodents.</p> <p>Here is just one example of the POSITIVE role the cats play in locals and visitors' experiences in Old San Juan https://www.instagram.com/p/CSvDxUWrZdo/ (search on Google for Instagram Old San Juan or San Juan and cats)</p>
16	<p>Por favor no los maten. Todos merecen una oportunidad de vida</p>
17	<p>Una parte del plan establece que &quot;Los gatos que tienen problemas de salud pueden ser sacrificados humanamente&quot;. Mis dudas son: ¿quién o quiénes determinan o diagnostican los problemas de salud de los felinos? ¿Dónde o cómo se divulgarán los resultados de estas evaluaciones de salud de los felinos? ¿Qué significa &quot;sacrificar humanamente&quot;? Asesinar animales no tiene nada de humano, por eso quisiera entender cómo definen este eufemismo.</p>
18	<p>In Puerto Rico the solution for everything is killing! It seems the government do not have anyone that have brain cells between their ears! 🙄</p> <p>There is money to kill strays animals but there is no money to spay and neuter! There is law 154 that neither the police nor department of justice enforce it, either.</p> <p>And now some brilliant sick mind that is part of the problem comes up with this horrific idea! Puerto Rico lo hace peor!</p> <p>Who complains about the cats? They are spayed, neutered and fed by rescue organizations in the area.</p> <p>And the cats in the Paseo La Princesa and in San Juan are part of the scene the same way the pigeons on the Pigeon park next to La Capilla del Cristo.</p> <p>This should be an opportunity for the Natural Park Service to serve as a mean to educate Puertorricans and visitors about compasion towards the stray population, adoption opportunities, be part of the solution by educating and offering opportunities for people to donate for spay and neuter programs on the island and the importance that we have as humans to protect nature and other species in our cities, communities and country.</p> <p>Together we can educate, find solutions and improve the living conditions of the voiceless!</p>
19	<p>Los gatos pertenecen más a ese lugar que el Gobierno Federal.</p>
20	<p>This decision of killing these cats on San Juan which every single one have been castrated and spayed, and also vaccinated by Save a Sato rescue organization, is completely absurd and unnecessary. There is no point on killing them because they are not causing harm and aren't propagating because of the previously mentioned. I feel very disgusted with such decision of the government, these animals deserve to live.</p>
21	<p>Stop your asinine plan to eliminate the free-roaming cats of Old San Juan. These cats are taken care of by the community and have been vaccinated/neutered. You will be doing a disservice to the area and will cause an uptick in plague-ridden rodents in the city. We the citizens of the capital stand against your plans.</p>
22	<p>I visited El Morro once before and it was lovely seeing the cats. They are all vaccinated and neutered and a staple of the community. If they are causing any issues, it should be left to the people of San Juan to decide. They are the members of the local community who should get the say on whether they want them there or not</p>
23	<p>I oppose that this living creatures be exterminating.They hurt not one.They are vaccinated,operated.And they are care for by an organization and the community.There is no reason to kill them .Please stop this nonsense.</p>

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24	I oppose that this living creatures be exterminating.They hurt not one.They are vaccinated,operated.And they are care for by an organization and the community.There is no reason to kill them .Please stop this nonsense.
25	<p>Hello;</p> <p>I oppose the plan of killing the cat colony near El Morro. This is inhumane. These cats were neutered by the community, and are being taken care of.</p> <p>Talk with the community, your neighbors, to find an adequate solution to this. Stop behaving like a unilateral authority, because there is people living in San Juan that care about the cats lives.</p> <p>Thanks;</p>
26	Do not kill the Paseo San Juan foreign Cats. I have being going since more younger to El Viejo San Juan just to see the cats all around the lovely pink house. I love walking around the Paseo to watch them and it does not bother anyone there. It's part of San Juan. They are vaccinated and sterile living they're life without harming anyone. It's inhumane just to think about getting rid of them.
27	<p>The proposition for "humane removal" of cats in the VSJ area is not humane at all and not a long term solution as it is posed in the very proposal that cat colonies can move from place to place whose to say that killing off the current colony won't prevent colonies from surrounding areas from venturing into VSJ? The solution is to strengthen TNR efforts and education of the public. It would be ridiculous to fun a mass murder instead of allocating that funding to volunteers and sterilization.</p> <p>The cats have become a part of the culture of the area. The neighbors and frequent visitors know them and their spots and look forward to seeing them. Many people from other countries come from cultures where pets are revered so to claim that the majority of visitors dislike their presence doesnt make sense. In fact, visitors come and go regardless of the cats. They come for San Juans history and the beautiful views. Cats or no cats doesn't affect their desire to visit. So really the people who live and work in VSJ are the ones who should have a say and they already have relationships with the cats.</p>
28	Es un acto de la más grande crueldad. Esos animalitos están esterilizados y la misma gente del lugar cuida de ellos. Ellos merecen que se les respete su espacio. Tienen derecho a vivir una vida digna. Detengan ya tanta crueldad!!! Seamos y comportamos como seres civilizados y racionales!!! YA NOS TOCA COÑO!!!
29	I totally oppose to the killing of the cats in the VSJ. Those cats are part of the community and they feed them and take care of them. First talk with the community to see if they want that for the cats. They don't do any harm, they keep the place without plagues.
30	Please do not move forward with plan to exterminate cats in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. It's inhumane to do so. They are fixed and vaccinated.
31	The cats in the Old San Juan area have always been there. As such the community is used to taking care of them and most of them are vaccinated and fed by said community. They also help to keep vermin around the historic city down which is important to the ecosystem and the cleanliness of the area. Removing them would mean rats would run rampant. Strongly consider dropping this issue as it makes no good sense and would lead to a bad outcome.
32	Hello. I do not hope my comment finds you well because I am pretty disgusted by the actions your organization is planning to do. This is our island, and our cats mean the world to us. They are well taken care of by the organization of @saveagato.

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	<p>This is beyond inhumane, selfish, egregious and straight up wrong. These animals are loved by the community that surrounds Viejo San Juan, by the visitors that come from different parts of our island. The only people I can conceive have a problem with this are United States Americans, and because of them not being familiar with our fauna We The People Of Puerto Rico should not get to be punished for the invader's inconvenience. If this is done, not only will rats plague the streets, but We The People, will as well. I strongly recommend that this plan is forgotten and never considered ever again, I cannot express enough the love that my people have for these innocent creatures and that they do not harm anyone, and your intentions here are even more inhumane due to the fact that these cats are all sterilized and fed and cared for every single day. "Humanly removed" you say? As you plan to execute the creatures with the most privilege and advocates in this entire island? What a joke. Is the plaza with the pigeons we have in San Juan next as well? This is beyond hurtful to us and again, I suggest that this does not go through. You will harm us deeply, you will take away something that is extremely meaningful to my people and myself, and you will be senseless and meaninglessly taking the lives of little animals that have rights -Best believe that the Puerto Rican people WILL fight for those rights, as we always have and always will do.</p> <p>I would say "Thank you" to end this comment, but for now as this plan is still being conceived, I have nothing yet to thank you for.</p>
33	<p>Lo que me da más lástima es que siempre sufren los animales inocentes por lo insensible que son ustedes la gente con poder. Siempre haciendo decisiones para "ayudar" a la comunidad. Sin involucrar la gente de la comunidad. Estos gatos son parte de la cultura puertorriqueña. Son parte de la comunidad. Nadie pelea por ellos por eso que tengo voz yo!</p>
34	<p>Killing cats is inhumane</p> <p>Stay off of our island</p> <p>We locals take care of those cats</p> <p>We even have little houses for them</p> <p>How about you kill the real pest gringo?</p>
35	<p>Regarding the plan to exterminate the cats in Old San Juan... WHAT ARE YOU THINKING??!!!!!!</p> <p>How is it even possible to consider such a nefarious, ill-conceived, brutal, counterproductive and, simply, EVIL plan of action?</p> <p>All of those cats are spayed/neutered, fully vetted and are members of the Old San Juan community. They are deserving of respect as are the organizations and individuals that have worked tirelessly to create a healthy cat colony for everyone to live in harmony. They even constitute a tourist attraction that is spoken of in countless travel websites.</p> <p>The OSJ cats are also instrumental in maintaining Old San Juan free of rodents and other pests.</p>

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	<p>What kind of "Service" are you? Whom do you serve? The public? Or the interest of the few?</p> <p>Non-human animals preceded humans on Earth. Leave them alone!!</p>
36	Please stop, cats are part of the culture in San Juan, they aren't bothering nobody.
37	The cats dont harm anyone, and they're provided for by the people of Old San Juan it's always pleasant to see them.
38	I am against the killing of street cats in Old San Juan. These cats are vaccinated, and are cared for by the community. They make every day feel special for residents and workers. Dont kill the cats!
39	The Cats of El Morro have to be spared. They're vaccinated and are part of the community.
40	The plan you guys are proposing to "manage" the number of street cats in el Viejo San Juan in PR is insane and inhumane. These cats are beloved by us and are taken care of by the shop owners, residents and students of the area. Putting them down simply because you don't like their presence is a horrible idea.
41	It is a terrible idea to remove the cats that the community has taken care of for years. Those cats belong to Old San Juan.
42	These cats are vaccinated and fed by the community. They pose no threat to the community.
43	<p>NPS</p> <p>Quiero comentar en cuanto a su intención de remover los gatos en el area del Paseo del Morro;</p> <p>Estarán cometiendo un grave error. Esta mas que probado a nivel mundial que eliminar los gatos NO es la solución ni garantiza que no habrá más gatos en el area. Crearían un efecto de vacío que invitaría mas gatos a ocupar esa area, aunque no se les alimente, y estarían sin esterilizar, comenzando nuevamente el ciclo. Estarían matando gatos casi a diario y eso no es una solución humana ni lógica.</p> <p>Ver enlace efecto de vacío para que se orienten.</p> <p>Los gatos allí son una atracción turística, sale hasta en Trip Advisor, bajo Save a Gato.</p> <p>Si no fuera por los gatos, Viejo San Juan seria un nido de ratas por toda la basura que deja la gente, y por ende, foco de leptospirosis.</p> <p>Deberían colaborar y unirse a Save a Gato y cooperar con el TNR, método de esterilización que practica Save a Gato en SJ y muchas personas y organizaciones a nivel isla y a nivel mundial.</p> <p>Los gatos no hacen daño a nadie. Mas daño hace la gente por el paseo dejando basura, usando drogas y robando o asaltando. Mejor tengan más vigilancia y asi ayudan a controlar el inevitable abandono de animales</p> <p>https://www.alleycat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/VacuumEffect_TruthCard.pdf</p> <p>Gracias por su atención, apelamos a su conciencia.</p>
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45	<p>Stop the extermination of our already spayed and all our furs cats or dogs. Be part of a spaying, rescue, adoption . Being part of a human initiative. Cats of Old San Juan PR</p>
46	<p>The cats are neutered/spayed so they won't be procreating and are taken care of by others. Killing them is a waste of funds that could be used in so many better ways.</p>
47	<p>Dear all,</p> <p>I write in opposition to the proposed action on Feral Cats around El Morro or the other other NPS installations in Old San Juan. I see no explanation of the reasoning for removing the FC. What is the wildlife that is intended to be protected? Is it the rats in the city? What studies have been conducted to determine: 1) negative impact of the cats, and upon whom? to humans? wildlife? 2) methods of action. The announcement offers no information on what are the proposed actions. Is the NPS intending to use TE or is there plans for TNR? If not TNR, why not?</p> <p>I'm not aligned with any organization, I just saw a tweet highlighting this propose action. However, I am a pet owner and have a rescued street cat. I also contribute to stray animals rescue organizations. I know Save a Sato has been working for years to assist this undeniable issue, but as far as I know, they receive no government support. The problem is human caused and I feel getting rid of the cats is just a sad admission of the lack of resources given to remedy humanely this situation. I hope the decision taken will be one based on thorough research and inclusive to all pertinent stakeholders, especially those in favor of cats.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
48	<p>It's a bad idea to destroy the cats that are in old Sanjuan they control the rodent and snake population. The tourists who come to visit have also commented on how well cared for they</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	look and have also adopted some out. Tourists do not need to see rodents running around the cats are not hurting or damaging anything I will fight for them.
49	<p>It is not your island. You don't live in it. You shouldn't get to decide what happens with the fauna that's here. It's is outrageous that you can't take care of your own raccoons and want to demolish what the organization save a gato has accomplished. These cats know where to pee. Aka the ground. Yes the ground. Not the asphalt nor the cement. The ground where leafs are.</p> <p>Still the smell of cat pee is not as strong as human pee. You should take care of the people that don't respect the culture and the "parks" and monuments. People that leave their alcoholic drinks all over the place. People who pee EVERYWHERE because of how drunk they are. You should be taking care of the people that don't have a home and don't know where to go.</p> <p>The only way to resolve this problem is by education about respect, culture, decency and accountability. Oh and maybe managing park funds so politicians don't rob it.</p>
50	<p>El plan de exterminar los gatos que viven en San Juan es inhumano, cruel e inaceptable. Los gatos se alimentan por las personas que viven y visitan y no son ningún tipo de molesta. Al contrario, estos brindan amor y ternura cada vez que se ven en las calles. Tomar la decisión de exterminarlos es incorrecta e inmortal y molestaría a miles de personas ya que no es la medida necesaria! Los gatos se encargan de que San Juan esté limpio de ratones y son animales sumamente independientes y no molestan a nadie. El plan de d terminarlos es sumamente cruel e inaceptable y el pueblo no está de acuerdo con esta decisión. Porque no los dan en adopción o los llevan a un hogar shelter que los cuide? No hay necesidad de asesinarlos!!! Es muy cruel y no vamos a permitir que lo hagan. Por favor!</p> <p>The plan to exterminate the cats that live in San Juan is inhumane, cruel and unacceptable. The cats are fed by the people they live with and visit and are not a nuisance of any kind. On the contrary, they provide love and tenderness every time they are seen on the streets. Making the decision to exterminate them is wrong and not morally correct and would upset thousands of people since it is not the necessary measure! The cats make sure San Juan is clean of mice and rats and they are extremely independent animals and don't bother anyone. The plan to terminate them is extremely cruel and unacceptable and the people do not agree with this decision. Why don't they give them up for adoption or take them to a shelter home that takes care of them? There is no need to kill them!!! It is very cruel and we will not allow them to do it. Please!</p>
51	I hereby want to express my regret to the extermination of cats in the Old San Juan; this is an atrocity and the cats are the balance of the Old City; they are neutered and they are being taking care of , in respect any kind of illness, in fact, they are excellent predators and keep all plague rodents and insects far from the residents.
52	<p>Superintendente de SAJU Attn: Paseo Cats 501 Calle Norzagaray San Juan, PR 00901</p> <p>I would like to let it be known that I am firmly against removing any cats from the area. Most of these cats are neutered, vaccinated and cared for by mutiple volunteers. They are not abandoned or doing any harm whatsoever on the area. These cats get rid of all the rats and other pests in the area. Overall, I believe they are a positive presence that keeps our VSJ rat free.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	I will request my exact address and email not be shared publicly if possible.
53	<p>El gobierno de Puerto Rico todo lo arregla deshaciéndose de los pobres animales.</p> <p>Se necesita ayuda para el control de la natalidad de los animales. Esterilizaciones y Castración gratuito.</p>
54	Stop the plan to kill the Old San Juan Cats! That's is not the solution, this cata belong to the community. STOP! DONT KILL OUR CATS!
55	Hi, I am against the removal of the cats in Old San Juan. The majority if not all the cats are spayed or neutered and the have their vaccines through the TNR program or when HSUS sterilized them at the Pink house also through the Spayathon program. It is beautiful to walk through the Paseo and see the cats. They don't bother the people on the contrary they run away. Another benefit of having the cats in Old San Juan is that one don't see rats like many years ago even in the food store's running around.
56	I am against the action that US National Parks want to carry out in Puerto Rico, Old San Juan to kill/exterminate Los Gatos. They must seek other measures and not commit atrocities of killing animals, it does not agree with US policy. Please don't kill the cats!
57	No estoy de acuerdo con la eliminación de los gatos del Viejo San Juan. Se debe implementar un control en cuanto a esterilizar, vacunar y crear áreas para los desechos.
58	Ever since our first visit to Puerto Rico in 2009, my husband and I have made a point of taking time to greet the lovely cats we found around the old city. Thanks to Save a Gato (who we financially support) and other organizations, these cats are so well taken care of and are not breeding thanks to a very active TNR initiative. I look forward to seeing them even more than I do the music, the food, even the weather. I implore you to not do harm to these lovely creatures. People around the world know of the cats of OSJ. I would think you could use all the positive publicity you can get. Eliminating the cats would bring very bad publicity and feelings of disgust from the world over.
59	I visited Puerto Rico about two years ago and seeing the cats at the park was one of the best experiences. Those poor animals do not bother anybody. It would be inhumane to remove them from their home. This all goes back to power and financial benefits. So sad that the government of Puerto Rico would allow this. The cats are fed And taken care of by the community of Puerto Rico. While revising the plan there was a particular section where it indicates this is being done to preserve the culture of PR. The cats in the park and the people of Puerto Rico are what makes Puerto Rico such a beautiful island. Not the fancy hotels with beach view or the fancy restaurants. As bad bunny said "que se vallan ellos" aka the people with power in PR.
60	These cats are neutered and are not a public nuisance These cats are very well cared for. They are well fed, get veterinary care, are sheltered in storms. It is inhumane to target them unnecessarily
61	In reference to the order of the elimination of our cats in San Juan Puerto Rico, I will like to have the possibility to be re considered not taking this decision. There are multiples organization that work for the rescue and the adoption or sale of this creatures.
62	No a la matanza de los gatos en el viejo San Juan!
63	The Environmental Assesment for Paseo Del Morro-Free Ranging Cats it's animal abuse. The fact that killing this animals, just because it's "inconsistent with National Park Service policies" it's crazy. I understand that may be interfering with the care of the Paseo and are affecting the area, but there are other ways to take care of this problem. Killing them is insensitive and inhuman.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	I encourage you to find another option to take care of this.
64	It's inhumane what they want to do to those poor cats. They aren't doing anything, they don't bother anyone.
65	<p>Saludos. Estoy a favor de la medida del Sitio Histórico Nacional de San Juan que propone el desarrollo de un plan de manejo para los gatos realengos en el Paseo del Morro. Estoy a favor de que se remuevan estos animales de la zona que se supone que es para el disfrute de las personas y familias. Soy residente de la zona y uso el espacio casi a diario y es sumamente desagradable transitar por una de las pocas zonas para peatones (con áreas verdes, caminos y con sombra en diversos momentos del día) que existen en San Juan. Los gatos generan áreas donde acumulan su excreta y resulta insalubre e inseguro para la salud caminar por la zona o sentarse en los bancos. Al ser domesticados y alimentados por la gente, su población aumenta cada vez más, aun a pesar de que algunos parece que han sido esterilizados. Por otro lado, no parecen servir para el control de plagas, ya que siempre están en el mismo lugar y se suele observar en el paseo a pájaros, lagartijos y otros animales muertos que se descomponen en pleno recorrido generando más olores desagradables. Si se trata de un plan integral, tengo 5 solicitudes adicionales.</p> <p>—Primero, proveer mejor rotulación que impida que entren ciclistas a la zona. He sido testigo de cómo ponen en peligro la vida de los peatones al coger las curvas y encontrarse con gente de todas las edades. He escrito y dado seguimiento a NPS sobre el asunto hace años.</p> <p>—Segundo, podar mejor las áreas y dejar que crezcan árboles en la zona creando un balance para que arrojen más sombra sin que se generen áreas donde se pierda mucha visibilidad. No se puede diseñar para que se vea "lindo" desde el punto de vista de NPS, sino para que los humanos puedan disfrutar del Paseo.</p> <p>—Tercero, sugiero que coloquen a una persona que vigile el área constantemente. Antes, se patrullaba la zona, pero ahora no (o no con la frecuencia debida) y los vigilantes del Paseo de la Princesa (quienes me han indicado que hacen la tarea voluntariamente y no como parte de sus deberes contractuales) no dan abasto o no tienen la autoridad de multar a la gente a la que le llaman la atención. He visto cómo son ignorados por quienes incumplen las reglas.</p> <p>—Cuarto, que se elimine a Save a Gato del área donde está. Su labor puede ser loable, pero no en el área del VSJ. El parque de niños que queda justo al lado no puede ser utilizado porque es un inodoro de gatos.</p> <p>—Quinto, que se reinstalen fuentes de agua (debidamente higienizadas) en el camino. Agradeceré que se vele por el cumplimiento de las normas establecidas (que nadie parece conocer o reconocer) y se retire la población de gatos del lugar.</p>
66	Save the kitties!!
67	<p>Como es posible que quieran sacar los gatos del viejo San Juan, sin ellos el lugar jamás sería lo mismo, mis mejores recuerdos de mi infancia y adultez al igual que los de mi hija es compartir y ver todos esos gatitos en esas áreas. La alegría que causan cuando los vemos y se dejan tocar es maravilloso. Incluso los turistas se ponen muy alegres al verlos. Ellos no molestan y ya forman parte del viejo San Juan. Establecer un plan para matarlos es una falta de respeto hacia el país, me siento totalmente indignada. Ellos tienen todo el derecho de vivir y no ser visto como una molestia. Si ustedes continúan atentando contra la vida de ellos de mi parte jamás apoyaré los parques nacionales, me mantendré pendiente a esto y apoyaré lo que se tenga que hacer a favor de mantenerlos con vida y que sigan en el Viejo San Juan.</p>
68	Favorezco la iniciativa del control de la plaga de gatos que ha inundado los parques nacionales y las comunidades aledañas. Se quedarían cortos en el proceso si no se extiende a

Corr ID	Correspondence
	la periferia de los parques donde hay un descontrol de estos animales. Agradeceríamos que se extienda a otros lugares de la isleta. Gracias
69	<p>The cats have been a part of the historic site for many years now. The cats are neutered/spayed, they help with pest control, keeping the rats, roaches and lizards at bay, they do their part in the part of the city they are located at. Tourists often enjoy seeing them pounce and walk around. I have seen people tend to their needs as best as they can, and if it were possible to have a negotiation/agreement and allow this team to keep caring for them, the situation might be solved to the best interest for all parts involved, specially the cats since they cannot defend themselves.</p> <p>I do not support their removal because I believe that if they were to be removed, it may affect the dynamic of the city and we would only see more rats and roaches wandering around.</p>
70	CATS LIVE MATTER!!!!!! Stop this project!
71	The cats at Viejo San Juan are a national treasure and must be protected, they do not bother anyone and are a more pleasant presence than the American tourists that roam the are.
72	<p>Completely unacceptable to remove the cats, unless the plan involves complete approval from the organization Save a Gato in Old San Juan, who have been working to spay and neuter since 2004. This is something that the government in PR should be funding, to be able to fully control the populations and eventually eradicate stray animals in the areas. National Park Service should work together with Save a Gato to fully implement a real control plan. Cats in the area are all healthy and given health checkups with this organization. There should be help in monitoring outside people leaving stray cats in the area, because this puts a strain on the spay and neuter program by there being an endless problem.</p> <p>Funding from the National Park Service should also go into educational programs against leaving strays, and free neutering programs for the general public.</p>
73	I don't support that you killed Old San Juan cats.
74	Please do not kill the cats at Old San Juan.
75	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>The free ranging cats in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico are an important part of the community. As a former neighbor of Old San Juan, I know first hand how much care and consideration the community has for these cats. It would be inhumane and unfair for the National Park Service in San Juan to remove the cats from the community.</p> <p>Please act with kindness and be intentional about taking good care of the cats and the neighbors in Old San Juan.</p> <p>Gracias,</p>
76	Los gatos en el viejo san juan son parte de la comunidad! Gracias a ellos no hay plagas de ratones. La comunidad los alimentan y los mantienen. Todo puertorriqueño respeta y aceptan a los gatos como parte del viejo San Juan. Por favor no se dejen llevar por extranjeros que vienen a la isla a sacarnos y cambiar nuestras comunidades para sus beneficios nada más.
77	The cats of Old San Juan have been here since before any of us. They are fed, taken care, T&R by wonderful, humane local organizations and the community itself. I never thought I'd see the day when in my beautiful hometown, we would be learning about a plan to exterminate these amazing creatures. I hope that every single effort is made to avoid such savagery and cruel plan.

Corr ID	Correspondence
78	We ask for everyone included in the nonsense plan of removing the roaming cats of Old San Juan to stop that plan immediately. All those cats are sentient beings with the same rights to live as any other living being. They are part of our planet and is our responsibility as humans to take care of them...NOT to eliminate them. We need to evolve into a more sensitive and humane world...BE EMPATHIC!
79	First of all, an action as big as this is just inhumane. There's at least hundreds of beings living there, to "get rid of so many lives would cost a fortune, a fortune that could instead be well used to save these lives instead of taking them. When has the solution been to eradicate lives instead of saving them? When did we become people that take actions such as Nazi people would take? I mean, seriously? Instead of making a change to these angels you would rather just basically kill them all before helping out? What are they cockroaches? I think we know who the real cockroaches are after all. The people who sit there while hundreds of lives are gonna be taken for unnecessary and negligent reasons. Please, if there's any humanity left inside any of you, please do something about it.
80	I think it should be clearer what 'humanely remove' means since its mostly understood as equal to euthanization. The work of ONG Save a Gato in Old San Juan is well known of around the island. Also its well known that TNR is the proper way to control cat colonies. Its hard to believe that a federal agency pretends to kill hundreds of cats which are already sterilized and well taken care of. I of course, stand against this idea. Do better.
81	I'm completely against the project of killing the cats of San Juan. The cats have every right to live in Old San Juan as they are taken care of by the community of Old San Juan. It should be ilegal this cruel plan of extermination. I hope this will never come to fruition as you will have a community full of rage at your doors.
82	Do not allowed the killing of cats in Old San Juan. They are a part of the community that cares for them.
83	Please don't kill the cats in San Juan. We love them and we feed them.
84	The proposal is totally unacceptable for the cats and another solution must be figured out. This is a traditional and ongoing thing here, cats mean that we have no rodents.
85	<p>I'm writing in reference to the upcoming meetings regarding the possible removal and destruction of the Paseo cats in Old San Juan. It has come to my attention that once more these creatures are at risk of removal, and death, by ignorant persons who simply dislike felines. The cats in Old San Juan, Approx.. 150 of them, are managed. They are vetted, well fed, and well cared for by many volunteers and organizations, least of which is Save A Gato. These cats are loved and cared for by many residents of the old city as well as so many visitors. I have many friends who have travelled from other countries just to visit Old San Juan and it's cats. They are beloved.</p> <p>My husband and I reside in Texas since 1979 but travel to the island often. We maintain very close relations with our loved ones, and animal rescuers and advocates in P.R. We have been donors and advocates for animal welfare in Puerto Rico as well as other countries for over 10 years. It is appalling to me that the government, of ANY political party, and other entities such as yours cannot come up with more support for the programs that already are working for animal population control. With cats Trap,/Neuter/Vaccinate/Return is the ONLY solution. It has been proven time and time again, under all type of circumstances, worldwide, that T/N/V/R is the most humane and effective solution for population control. Removal of cats will only create a vacuum and in little time there will be more cats. Animals will still be abandoned in the old city and not being sterilized they will reproduce. The Paseo cats are MANAGED. They are trapped and sterilized. They do not reproduce. They live out their lives in nature, cared for & fed by persons, and die when 'it's their time'.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>It is numbingly shocking to me that to this day even in terribly war torn countries like Syria and Afghanistan, with whom I have contacts, have worked online in and know very well, or in desperately poor countries like India, Pakistan, Nepal, and the Philippines there is MORE compassion and BETTER humane, effective care for the welfare of cats than on the island of Puerto Rico. There is NO excuse but bad management by ignorant, stubborn persons, who insist in getting in the way of groups and volunteers that ARE really making a difference. I read that now that the cats in OSJ are being called an 'invasive' species. HUMANS are the invasive species! The cats in OSJ are cleaner than just about every homeless person sadly residing in the Old City at this very moment. Why don't people worry about the unsanitary fecal filth created by and the conditions in which these poor persons live in? I guess these cats are an easier target? The main reason I ever travel back to the island is the Old San Juan cats. I stay and spend my money in OSJ and I visit them daily. If these cats are removed and destroyed I vow to never return, not will I ever recommend anyone to visit. The heck with you. THAT is how my family feels about this threat.</p> <p>PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THE CATS. PLEASE IMPLEMENT LOGICAL, HUMANE SOLUTIONS FOR POPULATION CONTROL. THERE ARE MANY OTHER SOLUTIONS THAN KILLING INNOCENT ANIMALS.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
86	<p>Espero mi súplica pueda llegar y se paralice y prohíba la matanza de Los Gatos sin hogar en el Viejo San Juan. Por favor no normalícenos deshacernos o maltratar animales sin hogar. Es un pedido que hago desde mi corazón</p>
87	<p>Do not remove the free roaming cats in Old San Juan. They are fixed and are being fed by the local community and local organizations. They are part of the charm of the historic city. It's inhumane to remove them.</p>
88	<p>KILLING THE CATS IS SURELY THE ANSWER!!! TENDERIZE THEIR FLESH, SMASH THEIR SKULLS ONTO THE PAVEMENT!!!! They die either way, right? Who cares about the humane treatment? They die! Now watch the rats come up from their holes and make a mess of the city. I sure hope the sir executive making the order actually does it himself, he should really get the full experience!!! This isn't the solution. Do not kill the cats please.</p>
89	<p>Please do not remove cats from any national park, including in Puerto Rico. Cats can be trapped and neutered.</p>
90	<p>It's inhuman and outrageous to take out all the cats that live in Paseo del Morro in Old San Juan. The organization Save a Sato has been taking great care of this cats. They feed them and have spay them. I have see it with my own eyes. Even the tourist love the cats. Just the thought of taking them out and with great possibility kill them its inhuman. Please, reconsider the decision of taking them. Many people implore you to reconsider.</p>
91	<p>Me parece inhumano, el hecho de que Estados Unidos quieran venir a matar Los Gatos que se encuentran en el viejo San Juan. Primero, Los Gatos no le hacen daño a nadie y mantienen bajo el control de ratones en San Juan. Segundo, nunca he tenido una mala experiencia con ellos, al contrario me llena de alegría verlos. Tercero, estar esterilizados que no tienen un porque al asunto. Si ustedes piensan que pueden venir a nuestro país a matar nuestros animales están bien equivocados, si quieren que Puerto Rico salga otra vez a la calle en contra de ustedes sigan con lo mismo. NO SOMOS PROPIEDAD DE USTEDES, LOS ANIMALES SON DE NOSOTROS Y NADIE TIENE UN PROBLEMA CON ELLOS. En vez de cogerlos para adopción la única opción para ustedes es matarlos? Me parece inhumano. Se deberían abochornar.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>It seems inhuman to me, the fact that the United States wants to come and kill our cats that are in old San Juan. First, our cats does no harm to anyone and keeps mice under control in San Juan. Second, I have never had a bad experience with them, on the contrary, it fills me with joy to see them. Third, to be sterilized that they do not have a reason for the matter. If you think that you can come to our country to kill our animals, you are quite wrong. If you want Puerto Rico to take to the streets again against you, continue with the same. WE ARE NOT YOUR PROPERTY, THE ANIMALS ARE OURS AND NOBODY HAS A PROBLEM WITH THEM. Instead of taking them for adoption, the only option for you is to kill them? It seems inhuman to me. You should be embarrassed.</p>
92	<p>Our cats are part of our community. For more tha 15 years, Save a Gato along other rescuers have taken upon the task to responsibly TNR (trap, neuter, return), foster, coordinate adoptions for our Viejo San Juan cats. Removing them is not a viable solution. As in many other global countries, they live respectfully with us and provide tourists and residents true joy when they see them being taken such good care of. If you are unable to find homes or other organizations that can successfully take care of these cats, you're sending them to die. We do not support what you're proposing in this new policy as it is inhumane.</p>
93	<p>Please do NOT kill healthy vaccinated, neutered cats. TNR (TRap, Neuter, and Release) is a humane way to reduce feral cat populations, and the local community is working to keep the community cats healthy and in few numbers.</p>
94	<p>It has come to my attention that this committee plans to dispose of cats that are taken care of by the neighbors of Old San Juan city. It's appalling to me that you are planning to do such an inhumane thing. Why instead help the people that are involved in helping the cats with food and care for these beautiful creatures God created. Why not make a sanctuary for those cats. Seems to me you are always trying to go through the easy route and not thinking of the consequences. As a puertorican I simply object to this atrocity. Leave those cats in peace!! You haven't done anything for them. So who gives you the right to decide what to do now?</p>
95	<p>This approach is not warranted considering the cats are fixed, cared for by local organizations, and are loved by everyone.</p>
96	<p>Ósea, no se ni como empezar. Estoy procesando esta mierda que acabo de leer. Los gatos no son el problema. Los gatos llevan años aquí y son parte de nuestra isla. Mantienen plagas como ratas y ratones. Si desean ayudar, lo más aceptable sería operarios pa que no se reproduzcan tanto. Buscarles hogares con MUCHO cariño y amor. Por favor, esto seria inhumano...pero no se puede esperar tanto de los grandes Estados Unidos.... no les importa su gente menos sus animales. Esto sería un error. Por favor...</p>
97	<p>There is absolutely no need to trap and kill cats of Old San Juan. They are fixed, cared for and a part of the community.</p>
98	<p>Please, llave the cats at Paseo del Morro, Old San Juan. They are TNR, in Rome they have a lonony if cats, is a ttourism must go. Di not remove the cats. They keep the pest away, more harm are the people.</p>
99	<p>Those cats don't harm people! Why don't spend the money on a massive sterilization campaign for the thousands of abandoned dogs, cats & horses in the island instead?</p>
100	<p>Im writing in regards to the Paseo Cat Plan, proposed to remove the free roaming cats in Old San Juan. Its my opinion that this plan is ill intended and completely unnecessary. These cats are cared for by organizations such as Save a Gato and their volunteers, as well as the residents of Old San Juan. They are beloved by many and do not deserve to be disposed of in any manner by the parks service.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
101	<p>Como alguien que se crió en San Juan, puedo decir que el olor del que muchos hablan en las cunetas y en las garitas, lleva en el área antes de que empezara el programa de Save a Gato. En El Viejo San Juan hay un problema de gente sin casa y gente con adicciones que hace sus necesidades en todas partes, las alcantarillas están tan tapadas y el sistema de plomería es tan viejo que las cunetas siempre huelen a excremento.</p> <p>Además, con el problema de ratas que hay en toda la isla si deciden llevarse a los gatos (que están mayormente vacunados y operados), simplemente vamos a tener más ratas en un área bastante pequeña.</p> <p>El programa Save a Gato quizás se ha atrasado un poco con las operaciones, pero qué diferencia haría si tuviéramos un programa del gobierno que hiciera algo parecido, o si tuviéramos más albergues a dónde llevar los gatos que la gente abandona en las calles del VSJ. Por qué en vez de mover o eliminar a los gatos no los hacemos parte de la comunidad de una manera segura? Como lo han hecho otros países y ciudades. Al parecer son mayormente los turistas los que tienen problemas con los gatos, vamos a completamente eliminar a cientos de animales de un área e ignorar la opinión de los locales?</p>
102	<p>The cats in El Morro pose no threat to anyone and delight locals and tourists alike. They are a welcome sight after a long day and plenty of people enjoy photographing and interacting with them. Providing more funding for spaying would go a long way in helping to keep the population low and educating the public on how to properly trap and neuter the cats will allow the community to become involved in the process. We know that these cats will not be &quot;relocated&quot; and that they will meet their early, inhumane end instead. There are no complaints about these animals and they are just as much a part of Old San Juan as the colorful homes and the cobblestone streets. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.</p>
103	<p>Please stop killing senseless and non humanitarian of cats spayed and neutered at El Viejo San Juan, PR.</p>
104	<p>Hello! This is with regards to plans to cull the cat population in old San Juan, Puerto Rico.</p> <p>My partner and I recently returned from a vacation that took us through old San Juan for a day, and the unexpectedly numerous and sweet cats roaming the streets were absolutely a highlight. That's the selfish reason I have for wanting to keep the cats from harm.</p> <p>Perhaps the more salient point is the local tradition, and reverence for cats as divine in nature. It seems as though the decision of whether or not to preserve a local tradition ought to be left to those doing the work. The cat population in old San Juan is very healthy (per my partner, a small animal veterinarian), well socialized, and honored in local art and culture.</p> <p>Please leave the cats alone. It seems like everyone loves them, and that their trap/neuter/release program seems to be effectively managing the population.</p>
105	<p>Please do not evict the cats from San Juan!</p>
106	<p>I strongly support and appreciate this NPS proposed action.</p> <p>Feral cats quickly overpopulate. They are ruthless predators of birds, lizards, and other native wildlife species. They may transmit diseases.</p> <p>I wish NPS success with the approval and implementation of this necessary proposed action.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration.</p>
107	<p>Please do not get rid of the cats! We love them so much. They bring in tourists.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
108	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I would like to express my disagreement with the proposed plan to remove (kill, let's not sugarcoat it) the TNR colony from Old San Juan, whose cats are beloved by residents and tourists alike, and have lived in the area for over 15 years. It is a callous and cold-hearted proposal, which also negates the hard work of all the volunteers who care and give of their free time to care for these cats and work tirelessly to find homes for the ones that are adoptable. I have been a volunteer with Save A Gato for over 8 years at one of their Adoption Centers and one of my beloved cats was rescued by them.</p> <p>TNR has been a proven solution to control cat colonies; other cities in the US such as Reno, Nevada and in colleges such as Texas A&M University. Istanbul, a city in Turkey is recognized worldwide as the leading example on how to care for cat colonies and live in harmony with the residents of the city. A quick search will lead you to many stories from tourists who love to visit Old San Juan to meet the cats and even take time from their vacations to volunteer. It is time we treat animals with respect, they are not the problem, we humans are, as they are the product of irresponsible owners who never spayed or neutered their pets.</p> <p>It is my sincere wish that you reconsider and leave these cats at peace. There is nothing humane in the methods you will use to remove them, and these will set a terrible example for the future. I will continue to raise awareness, and defend these innocent cats. If the plan continues, I will just come to believe the US government does not care about the well-being of animals, and just prefer to murder them.</p> <p>'The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated. - Mahatma Gandhi</p>
109	<p>I strongly and irrevocably oppose any removal humane or not of these cats. These cats do not pose any harm to the conservation of the park area. It is inhumane to seek to displace or harm these cats when there are various organizations that help them and monitor them, while implementing TNR to control the population. I'm against any kind of actions against the cats. A better solution is to empower these organizations so they can improve their outreach and be able to do even more. This is the solution.</p>
110	<p>Good evening, I suggest that instead of "removing" the area's cats, simply create a program where they are taken care of instead. Give them protected shelter with the chance of adoption, to control the population the cats could be neutered so they don't keep growing at an uncontrollable pace. If all cats are removed the rat population would definitely grow to the point of them becoming the pest which, by historical background is 10 times more dangerous. Please reconsider other options instead of "removing" then.</p>
111	<p>Please don't kill the cats in old San Juan unless absolutely necessary.</p> <p>I understand humanely euthanizing overly aggressive cats that pose a risk to the public, but manually getting rid of the population seems excessive (especially considering Puerto Rico's history with animal control). Having a well controlled population of cats in the area can help decrease more 'unsightly' wildlife such as bugs and rodents. The cats are being taken care of by residents and local charities, which have decreased the population by a third.</p>
112	<p>Less "humane removals". More funds for projects like save a gato who are truly addressing the issue in a humane way.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
113	I was born and raised in Puerto Rico and have had the pleasure of seeing the cat colonies of El Morro thriving thanks to the work of Save A Gato with food,water, veterinary care and adoptions held as possible. This non profit goes above and beyond to care for these animals that you see as displaced. Many other parts of the island do have displaced animals in need but the animals at Paseo Del Morro are not them. Please consider helping this non profit continue to help these animals instead of needing to displace them into areas where they will not actually be cared for.
114	Cats are able to live in wild colonies. Trap/Neuter/Release is effective at controlling and managing colonies. The plan you are seeking to establish should continue TNR efforts and concentrate on eliminating animal abandonment, through humane education and spay/neuter efforts. Humans need to accept responsibility for the pet overpopulation problem in Puerto Rico. This is done by addressing the root causes of the problem. Not by cruelly and coldly penalizing animals for an issue that is entirely our doing.
115	Me parece a mi que levantar y destruir a estos animales es una atrocidad, esto no sería un remedio sino un error. Esta es una población animal bien controlada y bien manejada por voluntarios que no le quitan un centavo al erario público. Las veces que he viajado a Puerto Rico los he disfrutado mucho y me consta que la mayoría de las personas que observé también los disfrutaban. Espero que no se lleve a cabo la remoción y destrucción de estos animales.
116	Cats who live in public areas and are well looked after deserve to remain there. An outdoor area is habitat to many animals and to take that away is inhumane and unfair.
117	The whole world is watching. Do not massacre these cats. It's barbaric.
118	<p>I'm a witness of how hard Save a Gato have been working, cleaning , feeding and vetting all cats @ Paseo la Princesa.</p> <p>I believe that they should stay there since they are part of the environment there.</p> <p>Also they can't be exterminated just because they are not liked by some people.</p> <p>I visited Turkey several yrs ago and cats are tested there in a fantastic and humane manners.</p> <p>They interact with tourist and citizens there w/o. Cats are well respected and cared.</p>
119	Por este medio les informo mi opinion sobre el tema de remoción de los gatos en el parque de San Juan. Parques Nacionales debería aportar a la asociación Save a gato los recursos para que puedan seguir esterilizando al mayor cantidad de gatos lo antes posible para mitigar el crecimiento de esta población de gatos que ya existe con el fin de controlar la población no solo en esta area del parque si no que en áreas aledañas ya que como bien sabemos algunos gatos se trasladan de un lugar a otro. Debemos buscar alternativas que eviten llegar a la eliminación de los gatos ya que esto cae en la línea de MALTRATO ANIMAL. Esta asociación se a esforzado por mantener a estos gatos en buen estado, lo cual eliminar estos animalitos no sería una solución justa y responsable. Adicional aportar herramientas para promover la adopción de estos animales. Parques Nacionales debería crear un plan de mantenimiento que incluya dichas estaciones para apoyar a Save a gato con el mantenimiento y reducir las quejas de los visitantes. Si la fachada es un problema para ustedes pueden aportar en la creación de estación eco-amigables lo cual ayudaría a desviar la atención de estas estaciones de plástico. Hay muchas alternativas y la primera opción no debería ser la remoción de estos animales.
120	I am against that program as I have been indirectly a part of caring for the cats. I have witnessed how several organizations and the community join forces to maintain and care for

Corr ID	Correspondence
	the cats in the community. Like the kittens, in addition to being a tourist attraction, they are residents for years and maintain pest control. The San Juan residents, multiples organizations and volujtary people like me aport for they meals and medical expensives.
121	Hello! I have recently learned that some American government organization has come into San Juan and wants to kill the cats in the community around the capital. I find this completely repulsive. These cats are vaccinated and sterilized. People in the community take care of them. As a puertorrican woman I say HOW DARE THEY come into OUR land and decide what to do with the animals that live with us. Animals that we love and take care of. I hope that my words as an ACTUAL PUERTORRICAN are heard above the people that are robbing us right in front of our eyes. This is another thing in their agenda. I want the cats to stay since they do no harm, in fact they help the community stay clean from rats and insects. The real stench in San Juan is from drunk people that pee around the zone, NOT THE CATS.
122	Please do not kill the cats living in VSJ. The community has supported the National Park Service after Maria and is broadly supportive of your mission, but killing cats is a betrayal of this support.
123	Por que mejor no ayudar con la esterilizaci3n y castracion de Los Gatos. Ellos no le hacen mal a nadie. Amo ir con mi familia al viejo San Juan y verlos. Sin tranquilos y no molestan. Hasta a los turistas los he visto toc3ndolos. Son seres que merecen estar vivos y libres. Dan alegr3a y es lo m3s que necesita nuestro pa3s en estos momentos.
124	I am completely against the Paseo Cats elimination program. As a volunteer for Save a Gato, I can assure the NPS that the cat population in Viejo San Juan is an integral part of the community. It is highly worrisome that the Plan, as is, does not even mention where the displaced cats would reside, how the plan will be implemented and how organizations like Save a Gato will be considered during the process. Removing cats from Paseo La Princesa will only cause the "problem" to move elsewhere. I am deeply dissapointed in the NPS's proposal because it is yet another example of how bureucratic decisions fail to consider communities' realities and true needs.
125	<p>I am in complete disagreement with the proposed plan and believe there should be no action. The proposed plan is inhuman and presents reasoning without enough supporting data. It talks about invasive species but what about all the iguanas, pigeons and countless other animals around the park? The cats are being taken care of by save a gato and this should be the continuous plan moving forward.</p> <p>As a Puertorican from the metropolitan area, I am completely against the proposed plan of action.</p>
126	I support the option to remove the cats from the site as humanely as possible. It has obviously become a problematic dumping site and aside from threats to wildlife, public health, and resources, it is really inappropriate to have introduced a cat colony at any historic site, and especially at this one. This is not an appropriate element of history to highlight: colonialist Spanish seafarers carried cats, rats, and a lot of disease across the globe, harming indigenous peoples and native wildlife. That history can be conveyed without having actual cats there (alongside rats at feeding stations- how much Old World epidemic history do you want to create?). NPS doesn't have slaves at slave sites.
127	<p>Hi!</p> <p>I am writing on behalf of all the cats that are currently residents of El Paseo de la Princesa. With this message I hope you can see how important it is for the community and a huge group of people in the island that those cats are safe. Save a Gato has been taking care of</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>them for a long time now thanks to the unconditionally support of the community. The cats have become part of El Paseo de la Princesa and without them it will not be the same. Cats are interactive and stimulate happy hormones that keep people content. They are playful and, especially, NOT aggressive. Please reconsider your decision to get rid of the cats or come to an agreement with the community.</p> <p>Thank your for your time.</p>
128	<p>Cats in Old San Juan have neutered and sterilized by foundations as Save a Gato and other humanitarian people. They are beautiful living things that are loved and cared by people living all around Puerto Rico and our tourists. Please stop this cruel project that we, puertoricans have not suggested. We are their voices.</p>
129	<p>Los Gatos son parte del Viejo San Juan. Conozco la labor de los voluntarios que trabajan el área, llevan mas de 15 años. Save a Gato lleva años esterilizando. Ya están bajo control, la mayoría están operados y vacunados.</p>
130	<p>Siempre el gobierno ven venir el problema y sus concecuencias pero no hacen nada. Que el gobierno no halla ayudado a antender esta situacion no le da ningún derecho a matar a estos animales que ya distintas entidades con su propio dinero han esterilizado y vacunado .</p>
131	<p>Siempre el gobierno ven venir el problema y sus concecuencias pero no hacen nada. Que el gobierno no halla ayudado a antender esta situacion no le da ningún derecho a matar a estos animales que ya distintas entidades con su propio dinero han esterilizado y vacunado .</p>
132	<p>Siempre el gobierno ven venir el problema y sus concecuencias pero no hacen nada. Que el gobierno no halla ayudado a antender esta situacion no le da ningún derecho a matar a estos animales que ya distintas entidades con su propio dinero han esterilizado y vacunado .</p>
133	<p>You Must not destroy these animals like they're vermin. The gatos colony has been a positive and humane manner of controlling the cats for many years. I saw the animals before 1999 before the Canadian lady took it upon herself to help the situation and AFTER when they became vaccinated and sterilized. It was a remarkable improvement. It gave us hope that maybe the citizens and the local government would learn to be compassionate and helpful instead of just poisoning and mistreating the cats. Now that the Save a Gato has turned into a great charitable entity, you want to destroy it. The cats are a wonderful part of the city. Tourists and locals enjoy their presence. I grew up in San Juan and I visit every year. Destruction of this colony will not only break our hearts, it will hurt many animals, change the ambiance of Old San Juan for the worse, and ignore the fact that more stray cats will move in and start the problem all over again. Why don't you HELP, instead? Who's is really complaining? The cats are in a limited area, not all over the place. I hope to God that you reconsider this tragic plan.</p>
134	<p>Saludos a todos</p> <p>Me parece inaceptable las medidas que piensan tomar con los gatitos del Viejo San Juan que por años han estado allí y no representan ningún daño para nadie ni nada. Más aún me parece muy injusto que ahora, luego de un esfuerzo de rescatistas de coger estos animalitos operarlos bajo TNR, curarlos si se enferman y alimentarlos, todo ésto con fondos propios SIN ninguna ayuda gubernamental, vengán a simplemente desaparecerlos. Totalmente inhumano y una falta de respeto para los que si estamos haciendo algo para neutralizar la situación de la propagación de los mismos. Por qué mejor no se dedican a multar a todos aquellos, que para simplemente salir de su "problema" tiran nuevos gatos allí? Esa Colonia estaría hace tiempo controlada sino fuera por el ser humano que en su egoísmo sigue contribuyendo al "problema".</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Totalmente en contra de su propuesta. Que quede en su conciencia y en su ser cualquier acción que tomen en contra de la VIDA.
135	The cats of the San Juan area are part of the environment. For years they have been there, they give a touch of life to all those walls. We have to respect that space, if they don't hurt anyone, why the effort to get them out of their place? They are just trying to survive, there are organizations watching over them in those areas, seeking their care and food. They are part of us and we want them there.
136	<p>Are you planning to fill San Juan with rats? Save a Gato in San Juan,has been taking care of those cats for years. This community of cats are spayed/neutered, vaccinated and healthy!!! They live peacefully with people living and visiting San Juan. Also tourist come to see and play with them!</p> <p>There is no such thing as humanitarian killing!!!</p> <p>Please leave them there! Blessings!</p>
137	<p>Me opongo a este proyecto ya que entiendo que carece de suficientes razones para eliminar mas de 200 gatos. Los esfuerzos de esterilizacion que ha llevado a cabo Save a Gato no se pueden menospreciar. Si las comunidades aledañas y los residentes del area continúan liberando gatos, el problema persistirá. Independientemente se sacrifiquen los gatos que actualmente llaman el Morro su hogar. En adición, la presencia de ratas es un 'by product' de la vida en la ciudad y a no ser que se eliminen todos los zafacones y la evidencia de vida humana del viejo San Juan, las ratas van a ser una realidad en el área. El area tampoco alberga especies en peligro de extinción que los gatos puedan afectar. Nuevamente, me opongo a este proyecto cruel y brusco.</p>
138	<p>I'm not from the area, but I've seen people online misconstruting this plan only to ask that people send in comments against it, so hopefully this helps combat the amount of angry folk who may not know the full issue.</p> <p>I, for one, think this is a great plan. Trap/neuter/release only goes so far in terms of preserving the local ecosystem and controlling disease, and frankly, the current state of the parks now seems unsanitary. It's a solid plan with enough proof that the current state of things isn't effective, and its in no way severely harming the cats. Relocation is hard, yes, but hardly impossible for a cat.</p> <p>My only concern is where those cats would go next- if adopted out or in shelters, how will you support the shelters that may struggle under the sudden influx of cats? 200 cats is a lot, and though they might not go to the same place, feral, potentially diseased cats are hard to introduce into that environment. Not to mention, shelters are already swollen with many &quot;pandemic kitties/puppies&quot; after the last two years.</p> <p>I would hate to see them reintroduced into another ecosystem when they're so invasive, as well.</p> <p>That aside, this seems like a solid plan and I'm happy to support it in any way possible. We have issues with feral cat colonies here. They hang out in this old factory and even though local orgs set up food stations like Save The Gatos did, it very quickly becomes a dumping ground for people who want to abandon cats and/or attracts more ferals and strays. I love what local organizations have done, but its just not effective in certain environments.</p>
139	<p>LEAVE THE CATS ALONE IN OLD SAN JUAN. THEY DONT BOTHER ANYBODY. RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS ENJOY THEM. AND SAVE A GATO TAKES CARE OF THEM WITHOUT THE HELP OF THE GOVERNMENT. INSTEAD OF YOUR IDEA OF ELIMINATING THEM WHY DON'T YOU HELP THEM WITH FUNDS SO THEY CAN CONTINUE THEIR PROJECT OF TNR. SPEND YOUR TIME AND EFFORTS CLEANING AND MAINTAINING OTHER NATIONAL PARKS AND FORGET ABOUT</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	THE CATS. LEARN FROM THE COUNTRY OF TURKEY THAT THEY PROTECT AND ADORE THEIR STRAY CATS. SO PLEASE LEAVE THEM ALONE. THANKS
140	<p>You cannot get rid of the Old San Juan cats! They are part of what makes San Juan so special! My husband and I went on our honeymoon there and we plan on revisiting next year. It wouldn't be the same or as magical without the cats!! Please as a tourist and a favor of Puerto Rico and of cats, do not do this. Find a way to work with saveagato to preserve the cats!</p> <p>Thank you</p>
141	<p>Although I understand the challenges that might be perceived by some by the cats' presence, I believe in TNR methods to control such populations in urban sites such as Old San Juan. With a focused management program to sterilize and maintain healthy colonies, objectives can be achieved without removal of the cats. Also I think that your image among the public sector will be significantly damaged if this removal plan is implemented.</p>
142	<p>Please do not proceed with the euthanasia of the cats of Old San Juan! They are an important part of the character of the city, and help with pest control too. Being half Puerto Rican, I am proud of the cats of Old San Juan and urge you to reconsider this action.</p>
143	<p>Se nota desde que empeze a leer el documento el sesgo a favor de eliminar a los gatos. La cual no tiene sentido ni sensibilidad. Los gatos son tan especie invasora como también lo son otras miles en nuestro ecosistema. Deberian de exterminar las iguanas &quot;invasoras&quot; en nuestro país, a los caimanes y/o lechones por dar solo unos ejemplos que son mas dañinos y representan un verdadero problema de salud pública. En ciudades como Estambul y otras de Europa y Asia se les respeta, se les cuida y hasta son un atractivo turístico. Se habla de la escrementosde los gatos pero nadie menciona los de los cientos de perros que van a pasear y defecar en las áreas públicas sin que necesariamente sus dueños recojan de manera eficiente las mismas. Y los fuertes olores a orín no necesariamente de animal si no de humanos que visitan el área y hacen las necesidades en área pública, por la falta de acceso al baños que existe. Se habla de manera subjetiva de las enfermedades que pueden transmitir los gatos pero no presentan datos epidemiologicos específicos y detallados de las supuestas víctimas tornándose este argumento como es de costumbre en el sistema de gobierno (sembrar el pánico en la comunidad). Es de todos sabido las plagas de ratas que han poblado el Viejo San Juan y sin embargo no consideran en su propuesta la utilidad de los gatos combatiendo las mismas. Deberian de estudiar un poco la historia y cómo en la edad Media luego de que por órdenes reales se eliminaron los gatos de las grandes ciudades la epidemia de la peste bubónica mato a millones de seres humanos. En su propuesta el Servicio de Parques refleja un desconocimiento craso en cuanto a cómo funcionan los ecosistemas y los planes modernos de manejo de especies. Si no acogen la experiencia y conocimiento &quot;in situ&quot; de los grupos de rescatistas toda la propuesta del Servicio de Parques se convertirá en un derroche inútil y cruel de dinero y esfuerzo. Como punto final deben recordar que existen leyes de protección de animales por un lado y que los puertorriqueños somos quienes tenemos la potestad de declarar que tipo de turismo queremos para nuestro país y no que sean los extranjeros visitantes quienes definan nuestras costumbres humanitarias y estilos de vida.</p>
144	<p>After reading an article on the Adoquín Times with your intentions of removing the cats from El Morro I must say that this is unacceptable. There's an organization called Save A Gato that has been working night and day, many times without resources to help control the feline population. Any initiative that proposes eliminating the cats colony is a bad idea. Please</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	reconsider your posture on this matter and work instead with this organization to organize a cohesive plan. Don't be part of the problem, be part of the solution.
145	<p>Saludos,esos gatos del paseo la princesa están visiblemente enfermos y hay excrementos y orines por donde quiera que pueden causar muchas enfermedades como leptospirosis,parasitos,rabia y otros.Ademas del daño que hacen a la fauna silvestre, pues ellos por instinto casan a los animalitos y aves silvestres y el daño que están haciendo a los animales nativos es enorme.</p> <p>Una posible solución es construir un recinto lo suficientemente grande donde se puedan contener y esterilizar para tener control de la población hasta que envejecan mueran de forma natural.</p> <p>Ese mismo problema yo lo tengo en mi casa con gatos realengos y compre una trampa y los llevo al refugio de animales de Humacao,pero me cobran \$30.00 aun cuando les digo que los gatos no son míos.Es un problema que esta en todo PR....</p>
146	Aprendan a compartir con ellos. No le hacen daño a nadie. Me encanta caminar por las calles solamente para verlos . No se le pueden llamar animales entendiendo que animal es aquel que tuvo la idea de exterminarlos y sacarlos de allí. Volvemos a siglos pasados con esta idea. Es que están aburridos y no tienen nada que hacer? Porque mejor no diseñan un plan para que puedan convivir con ellos tranquilamente . Aprendan de Turquía donde son sagrados y todos los ayudan y alimentan. La eliminación de gatos da paso a una colonia de ratas. Sean más creativos e inteligentes.
147	save a gato (nonprofit organization) lleva años trabajando con estos gatitos del VSJ. vacunándolos, esterilizándolos, dándoles comida y hasta areneros. muchos de ellos han logrado ser adoptados y los que no debido a que son feral los cuidan. these cats aren't the issue.
148	<p>The Save a gato Association has done wonders for the precious lives of the Old San Juan cats. Their rescue and sterilization process is a preventing healthy way to maintain the habitat of cats in a community without endearing other species and to live peacefully with human beings.</p> <p>I endorsed this Assiciation and I am opposed to closing its operation. Some citizens are more dangerous than these feline.</p>
149	Please, leave the cats alone! They were here before any of us. They are part of the city. In Old San Juan they are needed and respected. Don't kill them. Thanks!
150	¡Los gatos hacen una labor de control de plagas en esta comunidad! ¡Me opongo a que asesinen a Los Gatos!
151	so sad to hear this these cats are neutered and there's no rats there volunteers feed them and while i don't know the plan i'm really worry about their destiny i hope you could see the truth and understand this is their home it will be really sad to walk around and only ask myself what you did with them leaving us the rats thanks
152	<p>First of all, good day to anyone reading this.</p> <p>Second, I must say that, while I see where you want to go with this matter, I don't see a way in which this can be accomplished without harming the animals, whether physically or emotionally. Nor do I see how this "plan" will be effective in the long run since capturing all of them is near impossible.</p> <p>These cats are basically their own attraction at this point. I've seen countless tourists ask about the cat trails, take pictures of the cats, share with the cats, and even adopt cats from the</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>area. Not to mention, they are loved by the people in San Juan.</p> <p>My suggestion is that the park incorporates a way to support these animals instead of traumatizing them. Take ideas from places like Turkey, where street cats are used to encourage tourism, develop programs to educate the people on how to care for the cats (or pets in general) instead of resolving the problem in such a brisk way.</p> <p>The animal shelters on this island are already full with pets left by irresponsible owners; are they going to move them to an overcrowded space where they might be killed eventually? Have they even considered what might happen to them after capture? What happens if other people abandon they're unspayed cats in the same spot after the removal? Wouldn't the same thing start all over again?</p> <p>Look, this is my opinion on the matter, I doubt the employees will take these concerns seriously because of the fact that they're &quot;just cats&quot;.</p> <p>In any case, thank you for your time if you did indeed read this.</p>
153	<p>These cats have become part of Old San Juan history, unbelievable that this is under consideration since these animal don't harm and help even keeping control of rats and rodents in control within an area that is so much visited and have plenty of garbage that people leave around while visiting. Even worst, killing them (for no reason) will not guarantee that plenty of others will not show (non sterilized), then it will become a plague and a real problem along with the rats out of control ...</p> <p>As an Old San Juan local tourist, I cannot imagine this old town while visiting these friendly furs that are photographed by local and foreign visitors...</p> <p>Totally against this absurd project...</p>
154	<p>One of the most the beautiful things visiting Puerto Rico and walking around the Paseo La Princesa was watching the cats and the amazing work from organizations down there. As a matter of fact. This a tourism magnet like the Hemingway House in Key West, where a lot of kitties live. My kiddos love to watch the cats in El Viejo San Juan in this area. The proposal for removal is cruel and completely unacceptable. Please keep the cats.</p>
155	<p>US Department of Interior Ms. Myrna Palfrey</p> <p>Dear Ms. Palfrey:</p> <p>Respectfully I am writing to you to congratulate you on being the First Woman as the Superintendent for the San Juan National Historic Site. Your years of leadership and experience have been recognized. I believe that this will be a great opportunity for the Department of Interior to come together with the community to find a happy medium for the cat colony of San Juan.</p> <p>I know that you will sincerely hear the expressions of all the concerned citizens, I quote an expression you made many years ago&quot;San Juan National Historic Site is my home and even though many things don't occur in the way we imagine, they must be considered as an opportunity to have success and help others obtain success also.&quot; Hopefully an agreement can be reached.</p> <p>Thank you for all you are doing.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Respectfully,
156	Los gatos de san juan no son un estorbo, son parte de la osleta. Son animales cuidados por personas que viven ahí en la isleta y por una entidad conocida como Save a gato. El deshacerse de ellos así porque si es inhumano y muestra la verdadera cara de los "inversionistas" que los quieren fuera de ahí, ¡QUE SE VALLAN ELLOS!
157	<p>Mahatma Gandhi was not wrong when he said, &quot;The greatness and moral progress of a nation can be measured by the way it treats its animals.&quot; Respect for their well-being is a sign of the values we hold as a society, and the way people treat each other.</p> <p>In Puerto Rico, the creation of sanctuaries is urgently needed to help cats and dogs that suffer from abandonment from society. Killing the cats that live in El Morro is ANIMAL ABUSE.</p> <p>Animals are not to blame for the irresponsibility of human beings. They deserve and we are obligated to protect them always.</p>
158	He visitado varias veces Viejo San Juan, y los gatos nunca han sido inconveniente. Algunos buscan cariño y son juguetones. Por favor, tengan compasión
159	No according to The plan of extermination on Cats at The Capital San Juan Puerto Rico
160	<p>Como ciudadana de este país le expreso mi total desacuerdo con el plan para eliminar (matar) los gatos que viven en el área de El Morro en San Juan. Me parece bien que en lugar de cometer tal atrocidad, lo cual es considerado maltrato de animales, se creen santuarios en cada municipio para así poder brindarles el cuidado y la protección que nos corresponde como sociedad. Los animales son seres sintientes, no son un estorbo. ¡Nos corresponde protegerlos!</p> <p>Detengan ese plan de inmediato, los animales se respetan. La sociedad y sus dirigentes están para administrar y velar por el bienestar general y eso incluye a los animales.</p>
161	<p>Los gatitos no le hacen mal a nadie allí...</p> <p>No ensucian... están esterilizados y alimentados por Save a Gato.. yo me acuerdo cuando iba ayudar y era una experiencia muy linda !</p>
162	I find myself in complete disbelief about the future plans for the cats that have made Old San Juan a home. Without a doubt, in Puerto Rico there are thousands of animals, specially cats and dogs, that suffer from abandonment and are forced to live on the streets, a place far away from safety. We suffer from overpopulation of these two species but Save a Gato, a nonprofit organization, found a solution that enhances a better life for the cats that are found in Old San Juan. Save a Gato has dedicated many years to protect cats, as well as the people who live, work and wonder the streets of San Juan. Save a Gato has a great team of volunteers that everyday make sure every cat has food, water, as well as is spayed or neutered and vaccinated. This demonstrates the dedication this foundation has to keep everyone safe and healthy. There are no cats left unattended by Save a Gato. These cats are social, they know they live among people and they do not project harm to any of us. I see no reasonable explanation to why is this discussion being brought to the table when there are so many more positive things that Save a Gato wants to do. All they need is cooperation and donations.
163	La situación con los gatos que habitan en el Paseo de la Princesa en el Viejo San Juan (VSJ) no es una fácil de atender. Soy testigo de que la organización Save a Gato ha estado trabajando con un programa de TNR en el área solo contando con el apoyo económico de turistas, residentes y organizaciones en los EEUU. Si la población de gatos en el área ha aumentado, es debido a que gente externa al VSJ ha continuado abandonando gatos en el área.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Los gatos en el VSJ tienen una larga historia de existencia y eso hay que respetarlo. No porque el Sistema de Parques Nacionales maneje el Castillo del Morro deben tener mano libre para hacer lo que ellos entiendan es necesario.</p> <p>Entiendo que si la organización Save a Gato (SAG) tuviese los recursos económicos podría atender mucho mejor la situación de los gatos en el VSJ y por consiguiente, en el Paseo. Los gatos del Paseo no deben ser removidos como plantea el boletín informativo. Debe apoyarse a SAG para controlar la población de mininos.</p> <p>The situation with the cats that inhabit Paseo de la Princesa in Old San Juan (OSJ) is not an easy one to deal with. I am a witness that Save a Gato organization has been working with a TNR program in the area only relying on the economic support of tourists, residents and organizations in the US. If the cat population in the area has increased, it is because people outside the OSJ have continued to abandon cats in the area.</p> <p>Cats in OSJ have a long history of existence and that needs to be respected. Not because the National Park System manages the Castillo del Morro, they should have a free hand to do what they feel is necessary.</p> <p>I understand that if SAG had the financial resources, they could take much better care of the cat situation at OSJ and consequently, at the Paseo. The cats on the Paseo should not be removed as the newsletter states. SAG should be supported to control the pussycat population.</p>
164	<p>PLEASE, DO NOT EUTHANIZE ANY ANIMALS, CATS, IN PUERTO RICO OR ANY OTHER STATE. CATS ARE NOT THE PROBLEM; HOWEVER, PEOPLE IN THIS ISLAND ARE. CATS, AS ANY OTHER HOMELESS ANIMALS IN THIS ISLAND, ARE IN NEED OF SANTUARIES FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES. HOWEVER, OUR POLITICIANS AND GOVERNMENT DO NOTHING TO IMPROVE THIS PROBLEM THAT HAS BEEN CREATED BY OUR CULTURE. AND, ANIMAL RESCUERS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED AND MAINTAINED BY USA GOVERNMENT! BE REASONABLE, THE HUMANS ARE THE PLAQUE, NOT THE HOMELESS, ABANDONED, AND/ OR MISTREATED ANIMALS. BE NATURE PROACTIVE! BE EMPATHETIC, COMPASSIONATE, AND RESPECTFUL OF ALL LIVING BEINGS!</p>
165	<p>The cats in old San Juan are properly taken care of by the Old San Juan community and the Save a Gato Nonprofit organization. These cats are properly vetted and identified with their ear tip as TNR cats. They are vaccinated against rabies and sterilized to control their population. I recommend reading up on the benefits of TNR and community cats and the amazing work that the Save a Gato organization does in Old San Juan. As an added bonus, street cats control pests population such as cockroaches, rats, and mice. Lastly, the cats in Old San Juan are part of the city's charm. This project is unnecessary in an island where education is most important when overpopulation of street cats/dogs is an ongoing issue. Extermination is not the solution. It is inhumane. TNR and proper education saves lives.</p>
166	<p>Please don't, these cats are super important for us, as well for tourists.I know a lot of people who come visit Puerto Rico and fall in love with the cats and even adopt them, there's many</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>organizations that help care for these cats and help them get homes, I think you should support those organizations instead of eradicating the cats, or help those cats get homes instead of possibly killing those poor animals.</p>
167	<p>The cats of Old San Juan have been there for years. When my mother was a child, she used to visit Old San Juan specifically to see the cats, and got to adopt a couple of them. These cats are fed, neutered and well taken care of by the amazing humanitarian communities and organizations in Old San Juan. I cannot fathom that the Federal Government would even consider such a cruel and inhumane act of killing off these amazing creatures. This is a savage and cruel plan that must be stopped at all costs.</p>
168	<p>When you say "remove the cats" and leave them to the discretion of the removal company, you mean that these cats will be killed?</p> <p>These cats are an integral part of the San Juan experience and now a part of the heritage, whether a small minority likes it or not. Not only do these cats attract cat loving visitors, they provide a unique experience that demonstrates to world love and compassion for animals.</p> <p>In addition, the cats do no real harm to people, often running away from them, and as long as they are vaccinated do not pose a rabies threat.</p> <p>The cats do wonders to keep down rodent populations (another non-native species). As it is difficult for people to spay and neuter and vaccinate on the entire island of Puerto Rico, removal of these cats would only allow for other cats who are not spayed, neutered or vaccinated to populate the area, posing an actual risk to people.</p> <p>Save a Gato has done an exceptional job in trapping and vaccinating and spaying and neutering these cats. They also do provide adoption services, finding homes for the cats, shipping them to the US to adoption agencies and finding placements in local adoption centers such as Pet Smart.</p> <p>I strongly urge the National Parks to take all of these things into consideration and find other ways to work with the community in educating people on the importance of spaying, neutering and vaccinating cats (and dogs!) on the island, as well as work with veterinarians to make it doing so more accessible.</p> <p>In no way do I support "removal" of the Old San Juan cats.</p>
169	<p>Por los pasados 20 años mi familia y yo hemos disfrutado de la compañía de estos gatitos al visitar el Viejo San Juan. Además del atractivo que cautiva la Ciudad Amurallada, esta comunidad es parte de las calles históricas del mismo. Es parte, sin lugar a duda, de su idiosincrasia y así lo demuestra el buen corazón de los visitantes que ayudan a sostener los mismos.</p> <p>A su vez conocemos la labor que realiza la organización "Save a Gato", ante la inacción del Gobierno, como esterilización, alimentación, tratamientos médicos y su fase de adopción, por lo que esta comunidad no constituye un peligro y no están siendo maltratados. Por el contrario, están bien cuidados, por lo que no califican para gatos realengos.</p> <p>Esperamos que la toma de decisión del Gobierno Federal no vaya a afectar el futuro de estos</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	gatos y su medio ambiente, que al fin y al cabo regalan alegría para aquellos que los visitan y la compañía fiel de quienes deciden adoptarlo.
170	<p>I have visited Puerto Rico many times over the last few years. My favorite reason for visiting is the Save a Gato organization and the cats of El Morro.</p> <p>These cats are very well cared for and Save a Gato has been working with the colony of cats for 20 years. They provide food, water, and medical care. These costs come from donations. Save a Gato also practices TNR. The cats that can be adopted out find homes. The cats that can't, are spayed and then released back to the colony. These cats are monitored and loved.</p> <p>They are great for pest control.</p>
171	<p>Greetings,</p> <p>My family and I truly enjoyed the cats of San Juan and found they brought an unexpected charm and authenticity to our vacation. They appear well cared for and the volunteers we happened to meet were quite invested and knowledgeable. I realize there are many people who don't enjoy cats but one of the beauties of cats is that they (almost always) will leave you alone if you leave them alone. What is the harm in having these majestic creatures around to remind us of nature in what might be considered an unexpected location. I hope they stay! They are one of the MAIN reasons I hope to return to Old San Juan.</p> <p>Thaniks,</p>
172	<p>The Vacuum Effect - Quick Facts:</p> <p>If cats are removed from their outdoor home, it creates a territorial opening or vacuum that will not remain empty.</p> <p>Removing cats from an area may cause a temporary decrease in the cat population, but more cats WILL take their place and it won't take long.</p> <p>This phenomenon is known in conservation studies as the Vacuum Effect. The Vacuum Effect has been observed in many species, not just cats.</p> <p>Catching and removing (or killing) cats is therefore futile. It is an expensive, deadly cycle which yields no long-term benefits.</p> <p>Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the only way to stabilize cat populations. It is the humane, effective approach to community cats and is sound public policy.</p>
173	<p>Entiendo que cada situación descontrolada trae problemas, en cambio debería ayudar a esta organización con donativos donde ellos tengan su albergue y así ellos mismos los renuevan o ustedes le ayuden donde sea mejor. Todos queremos el bienestar animal pero también la preservación de los recursos.</p>
174	<p>Los felinos son importantes en la comunidad y ciertamente para el control de las ratas... Sería prudente que los Parques Nacionales colaboraran con programas como lo es "Trap-neuter-return" y de alguna forma controlar la población.</p>
175	<p>The cats in the area managed by the Park Service are being cared for responsibly and lovingly by organizations and volunteers. They are sterilized and their health and welfare is attended to by these groups. They are, in addition, a part of the attraction for tourists in this area. There is no need for the Park Service to intervene.</p>
176	<p>The cats that live in the Paseo del Morro in Old San Juan are fed, sterilized and taken care of. On my most recent visit to Old San Juan in June 2022, I saw the cats and interacted with them. In over 30 years of visiting family on the island, I have never had a negative experience</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>with the cats.</p> <p>To spend my tax dollars to destroy cats that are not a disturbance or hindrance on the city or the government is disgusting.</p> <p>I would rather my tax dollars go towards more programs like the Save A Gato and other programs that humanely deal with the overpopulation of animals on the island.</p> <p>The money that is earmarked for the destruction of innocent lives is better used to fund free spay and neuter clinics and programs throughout the island.</p> <p>At a time when we have a cost of living crisis, to use tax dollars to kill animals and eliminate a program that has worked for 20 years in controlling the cat population of the city is barbaric.</p> <p>Many people on the island live with the "animals are disposable" mentality and the destruction of the cats who did not ask to be born or abandoned only condones that sick mentality. The government should be working to make Old San Juan and Puerto Rico humane places to live and visit.</p>
177	<p>You can judge a society by the way it treats it's animals. Most people in PR mistreated their animals. The SJ colony is the effort to educate people and demonstrate the values of a very needy society.</p>
178	<p>Buen día, tambien ayudo a los gatos sin hogar saco de mi dinero tiempo para poder esterelizar los gatos, pero son demaciados , vivimos en un mundo donde no respetan la naturaleza ni animales, se siembra cemento en cada esquina sin importar el habitat de los animales, cuando realmente Dios los creo primero a ellos y fue en la tierra donde los puso. los gobiernos se roban mucho dinero , y ni piensan en los animales que tambien tienen derecho a disfrutar y ser feliz .</p> <p>me gustaria que de el terreno , fincas que hay en Puerto Rico le donen a las fundaciones y rescatistas de animales , ya que ellos son los que unico se puede confiar por el amor que les tenemos , no cualquiera puede estar a cargo de animales porque les pueden hacer daño.</p> <p>Terreno de mas hay sin ser utilizado no recomiendo escuelas porque las mismas personas que tienen animales que no gastan en operarlos son los que los tiran por ahi, y las escuelas rapido seria de notar que hay animales y continuaran tirando , por eso digo terreno con alguna casa o estructura que puedan protegerse, y que el gobierno pague por esterelizar .Cada Municipio debe de tener fondos para ayudar los animales tiene las mismas necesidades del ser humano , se supone que lo que lo diferencia sea que el ser humano tiene necesidad espiritual , pero al momento los animales reflejan mas las cualidades de DIOS que el mismo ser humano, todo lo que vallan a ser debe ser por el bien de ellos y con respeto y amor.</p> <p>de mi parte se han esterelizado sobre mas de 300 gatos con mucho esfuerzo.</p>
179	<p>I agree with this proposal. Even though the cats are being fed and neutered by volunteers there are too many of them and they are unsanitary. They poop in the area and kill wildlife which creates more waste and is bad for the environment. Simply spaying them will not reduce the numbers because they live a long time and every day more of them show up. Managing the population is imperative at this point for the environment in that area.</p>
180	<p>I have visited Del Morro many times with my family and children. At no time did I see the cats as a nuisance. Save a Gato hides the feeding stations and you only see them if you're</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>looking for them. During the day most of the cats hide in the Bushes. And at no time did we see or smell cat urine or feces.</p> <p>Most of the cats just want to be left alone with the occasional cat that might want head rubs. No cat has ever scratched or bitten us. The cats are not harming people. And if you pet a cat, simply wash your hands afterwards. The same is said for touching any animal.</p> <p>SAG has does a wonderful job caring for the cats. You suggest the population has grown since SAG started working in the area. Can you imagine how high the population would be if they weren't there to help? What have you done to help the situation? Have you donated towards their efforts?</p> <p>Cats are constantly being dumped by people. They're doing hard and incredible work to keep up. The fact that numbers have only gone up by less than 100 cats in 20 years says a lot about the work they're doing. What they're doing is clearly working. Especially being run solely by volunteers with no help from the government. Do you know how many litters a cat can have in their lifetime? In one year? SAG has done an incredible job minimizing their suffering.</p> <p>Getting rid of feeding stations is cruel and barbaric. As is killing innocent creatures. They are not harming anything or anyone.</p> <p>SAG should be allowed to continue their work.</p>
181	<p>I am extremely upset and saddened by this news. We are from Mayagüez and we almost always stay in Old San Juan in the summer to walk the streets and enjoy the Morro, the Paseo de las Princesas, Parque de las Palomas, but you cannot miss visiting that beautiful place where all these little angels are. that what they provide to visitors and many of the people who live there is love and peace. My children and I love cats, I currently have 7 and they are all rescues, they are special creatures. Honestly, if they take those creatures out of Old San Juan, I won't be interested in visiting it since whenever I go on vacation with my family, that's one of the places I'll never stop visiting as long as the cats stay there. if they take the cats out of old San Juan it will become a place full of rats and pests since they control the pests.</p>
182	<p>Tha cats in San Juan are part of the tourist attractions. They are being taking care by Save a Sati Organization for decates. They are not a hazard problem. It is outrageous to eliminate them or exterminate them.</p>
183	<p>The cats of Old San Juan are sterilized and fed by the neighbors. They do not harm and allow the control of pests such as rats. They are an attraction instead of a damage to tourism.</p>
184	<p>Our family has discovered San Juan and have made it our go to vacation spot four times in the last 3 years. What sets this vacation spot far apart from any other Caribbean island is the cats. We enjoy their company, we enjoy bringing treats for them, and we enjoy making donations to save a gato.</p> <p>Please preserve the cats and their well-being for this is the most enjoyable part of old San Juan and area. Any isolated complaints are outweighed by the enjoyment these cats give vacationers.</p> <p>To be quite honest we've seen the forts many times and it's the cats that keep on bringing us back as there isn't much more of a draw. It is basically the cats that give us pleasure and</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>relaxation on our vacations to Puerto Rico Please do not take that away from us and make us go elsewhere.</p> <p>Best Regards,</p>
185	<p>Apoyo a la Fundación Save a Gato. Esos gatos están en todo el derecho y protegidos al amparo de la Ley 154. La organización lleva años haciéndose cargo de ellos, sin ninguna ayuda gubernamental. Ellos los operan, vacunan y alimentan, por medio de donaciones que civiles les hacen, ninguna agencia de gobierno ha tomado acción en beneficio de estos gatos, por tanto, no tienen derecho a disponer, remover, limitar, estresar y hasta cierto punto, maltratar a dichos animales. El removerlos de su hábitat de más de 20 años, les causaría todo y más de lo antes expuesto.</p> <p>Mantener gatos en la comunidad es de beneficio para todos. Ellos ayudan a minimizar la aparición de roedores, insectos y plagas, lo cual representa un peligro a la salud. Estos gatos son animales inofensivos y llenan de alegría y vista a todo el que pasa por el Viejo San Juan, son un atractivo turístico añadido.</p> <p>Hago un llamado a otras fundaciones y civiles que estén a favor del bienestar de los que no tienen voz propia y no pueden defenderse.</p> <p>Alcemos la voz por ellos, basta ya de tanto atropello y mala intención oculta.</p>
186	<p>Cuál es el plan para el removimiento humanitario de los gatos. Obviamente el programa no va a funcionar si la gente sigue abandonando gatos en el área. No vi un plan en específico para el removimiento humanitario. Piensan reubicarlos encontrarle hogares?</p>
187	<p>Es importante evaluar, desapasionadamente, todos los beneficios que tiene el programa CER. La acción propuesta recomienda remoción de gatos, eliminación de estaciones de alimentación y monitoría que, en su base, carece de conocimiento sobre la conducta felina. Los estudios realizados de TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) señalan que es imposible la remoción total de gatos en un área, o sea que la acción propuesta ya tiene tropiezos. ¿De dónde sale el dato oficial que indica que el programa CER solo funciona en sistemas cerrados? Hemos trabajado con diferentes comunidades y el programa ha sido todo un éxito, incluyéndonos ya que en nuestras facilidades abandonan gatos no sociables que hemos esterilizado, vacunado y devuelto. Por otro lado, nos gustaría saber ¿cuántas "agencias de remoción" existen en PR?, ¿a quién se reportan dichas agencias?, ¿cuáles son las credenciales/requisitos necesarios para "remover compasivamente" un animal? ¿quién es la persona/organización que estará evaluando/supervisando/garantizado el trato compasivo? Opinamos que hay que ver las situaciones en sus méritos, evaluar factores adicionales no descritos en el plan de manejo de gatos realengos y buscar soluciones efectivas que no vimos en la acción propuesta. Estamos a la disposición para encontrar un plan efectivo a corto y largo plazo.</p>
188	<p>I think it is unethical and cruel kill the cat of Old SJ that are neutered. They aren't a problem nor can't affect the life of people who live in this area.</p> <p>I am not agree about eliminating those cats.</p>
189	<p>I am writing to urge the National Park Service to disavow the plan to eliminate the Old San Juan cat colony of Paseo del Morro. There are several reasons to maintain the cat colony as is, especially since they are cared for by the Save-a-Gato organization since the early 2000s. Among the reasons are: 1) the fact that these cats have long been part of the Paseo, 2) that in many ways they are part of the history and touristic appeal of the area, and 3) they do not pose harm to anyone. The document that is being circulated says that these cats are an</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>invasive species (not quite), and that they spread diseases, an idea that is not only inaccurate (and debunked), but that perpetuates harmful attitudes toward cats.</p> <p>It is unconscionable that this plan would be set in motion with such disregard for the wellbeing of these animals, and what they mean to the Old San Juan community both practically and symbolically when it comes to controlling the rodent population and being emblematic of the historic city, respectively.</p> <p>Eliminating the colony would be overreach and an unnecessary, cruel course of action.</p>
190	<p>"The removal agency would use best professional judgment to manage the humane capture and removal of the cats."</p> <p>The above mentioned sentence is really troublesome. It depicts a vague language that could lead to a horrible ending for these cats if the proposed plan is adopted as it is. The tragedy that occurred in Barceloneta/Vega Baja in 2007 where dozens of pets were massacred by a removal agency is still fresh in the minds of most citizens: https://www.myplainview.com/news/article/Denuncian-matanza-de-mascotas-en-Puerto-Rico-8651400.php</p> <p>Please consider modifying the "No Action" by adding the alternative the removal of feeding stations, and by implementing the use of repellents, habitat modifications and exclusion devices.</p> <p>In the unfortunate case that the proposed plan is approved, personnel from the Humane Society and Save A Gato should be present to supervise the removal and relocation process and make sure that it is a humane one.</p> <p>Nevertheless, I think it could be beneficial to take into account similar situations in other countries: https://myanimals.com/latest-news/news/cats-news/the-story-behind-the-cats-of-the-alhambra/</p> <p>Lastly, the bulletin mentions the health concerns brought by the cat population. Do you also have concerns for the health crisis that the sudden increase in the rat population will bring to OSJ?</p>
191	<p>NO ESTOY DE ACUERDO CON EL RECOGIDO Y MUERTE DE LOS GATOS EN EL MORRO, SAN JUAN.. NO LE HACEN DAÑO A NADIE, SON PARTE DE LOS RESIDENTES DE PUERTO RICO Y ESTAMOS EN CONTRA DE Q SEAN REMOVIDOS. SON GATOS ESTERILIZADOS LA MAYORÍA, NO ES JUSTO Y NO APOYAMOS DICHA ORDEN.</p>
192	<p>NO ESTOY DE ACUERDO CON EL RECOGIDO Y MUERTE DE LOS GATOS EN EL MORRO, SAN JUAN.. NO LE HACEN DAÑO A NADIE, SON PARTE DE LOS RESIDENTES DE PUERTO RICO Y ESTAMOS EN CONTRA DE Q SEAN REMOVIDOS. SON GATOS ESTERILIZADOS LA MAYORÍA, NO ES JUSTO Y NO APOYAMOS DICHA ORDEN.</p>
193	<p>I believe that the cat population living in el Morro, does not bring any health concerns or it is detrimental to el Morro. While it may be an eyesore to some people, the most humane thing you can do is provide each cat a forever home, not put them in shelters, allow the cats to find their home or be adopted for at least 2-3 years so its a transition period.</p> <p>Work with local shelters and organizations and tell the government to enact laws that protect</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>animals and how to handle the island's stray population</p> <p>Many of us locals do enjoy visiting them and petting them, they are not violent.</p> <p>I am opposed to the treatment of cats in a humane possible way which was what was mentioned by the Park Planning Committee. Provide plans in detail and be transparent about the procedures.</p>
194	<p>I speak on behalf of the cats of Old San Juan. They are fed and cared for by nonprofit institutions, and they are all sterilized. It is barbaric that they think of getting them out of there. They are beings who deserve to live. They feel like humans and do not harm Puerto Ricans or any foreign tourist. God bless you</p>
195	<p>Please, do not remove the cats. They are taken care of by the Save-a-gato organization. They're spayed, vaccinated and fed. They have no where else to go. I propose that the cats remain in place. Removing and exterminating these carts is completely cruel and inconsiderate of living beings who have a right to live. One alternative, would be to build a bigger shelter for Save a Gato with federal funds so that they can care for the cats. But, these cats shouldn't be removed.</p>
196	<p>Roma, Turquía, Taiwán entre otros, tienen áreas turísticas dedicadas a los gatos. Miles de personas viajan y disfrutan de eso, incluso los puertorriqueños. Si embargo, van al viejo San Juan, específicamente al Paseo la Princesa y les da asco. Entonces los golpean, envenenan o insultan a los voluntarios que los alimentan (que mucho pase por esto).</p> <p>Como Sanjuanera tengo derecho a emitir mi opinión con respecto a la decisión El Departamento del Interior y Parques Nacionales en erradicar o desplazar la más de 4 colonias de gatos que viven en el viejo San Juan. Los gatos son animales considerados como un erradicador de plagas, teniendo en cuenta que por mucho tiempo esta área estaba infestada de roedores y cucarachas, lo cual se ha estabilizado con la llegada de los mininos. Organizaciones como Save a Gato y a la cual pertencí como voluntaria, acogió la necesidad de estos seres y le ofreció un servicio de esterilización y devolución a su estado natural (TNR), evitando la sobre-población. Lo cierto es, que es difícil lograr que no haya una sobre-población de felinos, sin embargo, ha sido grande el esfuerzo y los resultados se han visto a pesar de que la única organización que lucha por los derechos de los felinos, es una sin fines de lucro.</p> <p>Ustedes creen que los gatos no van a volver. Seamos sensatos, seamos humanos, seamos sensibles, seamos solidarios con la naturaleza. Los gatos molestan a unos pocos. Aquellos que todo le molesta y son los primeros en crear suciedad en el casco urbano del viejo San Juan. No estoy de acuerdo con esta decisión, mi corazón y mi humanidad no lo permite.</p> <p>¿Esto es una remoción humanitaria, o una remoción impuesta por intereses de alguien más?</p>
197	<p>I support the removal of domestic cats from all NPS lands, especially those on islands. Please follow the NPS mandate to protect natural and cultural resources from this highly invasive species.</p>
198	<p>Cada vez que voy al area del VSJ, no me puedo ir si no voy a la casita rosa y al parque a visitar los gatos. Me encanta sentarme a solo verlos y que vengan donde mi a acariciarlos. NUNCA he pasado un susto con ellos, no me han mordido. Si no quieren caricias, simplemente se van. No huelo sus excrementos, suelen ser animales muy limpios que tapan sus propias heces. Los gatos ya son parte del Viejo San Juan, igual que los adoquines. No son</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	una amenaza para el parque. Dejen de querer controlarlo todo, ellos son vida y naturaleza que le brindan armonia al lugar.
199	<p>Sirva la presente para expresar mi apoyo completo a esta iniciativa con propósitos de remoción y/o manejo de gatos realengos en el área de el Paseo El Morro y áreas aledañas al Sitio Histórico Nacional de San Juan.</p> <p>Saludos cordiales</p>
200	<p>I am writing to express my deep concern about the possible removal of community cats from Old San Juan.</p> <p>Community cats, also known as feral cats, are unowned cats who live happy and healthy lives outdoors. Contrary to popular belief, they are the same species as pet cats and pose no threat if left alone. This community of cats is well cared for by the people of Old San Juan and Save a Gato (SAG); a non-profit organization dedicated to the welfare of these cats through TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return), fostering, and adoption. Save A Gato has cared for and managed the colony of cats on the Paseo del Morro and the rest of Old San Juan for years with distinction and success.</p> <p>TNR is the only humane and effective approach to community cats. Since most community cats are not socialized around humans, the outdoors is the only proper home for them. During the process of TNR, community cats are humanely trapped and taken to a veterinarian to be spayed/neutered, vaccinated and ear tipped for identification. After recovering, they are returned to their outdoor home in Old San Juan.</p> <p>These cats have been part of the community for decades. In addition to their communal value, they are also a significant tourist attraction. Take for example the country of Turkey: Turks are famous for their love of animals and a rich culture of caring for their community cats in particular. Photos and videos of these cats playing and relaxing in their outdoor homes spread like wildfire on social media and have become both a tourist attraction and a sign of the brilliant love and humanity that Turkish culture fosters. Likewise, community cats are known locally to enjoy a very comfortable life in Puerto Rico, and this is something that we should amplify and share with the world.</p> <p>Old San Juan might have its problems, but it is united by its love of cats.</p>
201	<p>As a resident of San Juan, Puerto Rico, I want to make my thoughts known about the El Morro free-ranging cats environmental assessment. I ask that the cats are kept safe, not euthanized or offered to kill-shelters or shelters that offer euthanasia. Residents of San Juan all feed and take care of the cats and putting them in danger will not go down lightly with residents.</p>
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204	<p>La realidad es que hay una zona, entre La Rogativa y la Casa Rosada que tiene un fuerte olor a excremento de gato. Cuando mis hijas eran pequeñas no podíamos usar el parquecito hay por allí por el fuerte olor. En el resto del VSJ los malos olores son por una combinación de basura, alcohol y orines causados por los humanos. Dicho esto entiendo es posible encontrar</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>un punto medio en el que no sea necesario exterminar a la población gatuna del Viejo San Juan. Mis sugerencias serían (todas con el auspicio económico de Parques Nacionales) :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continuar campaña esterilización y hacer un censo real de cuántos gatos hay 2. Iniciar una campaña de adoptar los gatos, realmente la vida en las calles (aunque estén esterilizados y alimentados) no es de calidad para ellos. 3. Limpieza diaria de las áreas que se identifican se utilizan para hacer sus necesidades. 4. No dejar alimento de los gatos a la intemperie (he visto ratas comiendo allí), de hecho los gatos cuando son alimentados usualmente no recurren a cazar para alimentarse. <p>Se supone que si no hay personas trayendo o abandonando nuevos gatos, esa población debe ir naturalmente desapareciendo.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Ordenar que todos los que van o sueltan sus perros en el área verde cercana al morro dejen siempre el área limpia. He visto a dueños responsables e irresponsables también
205	<p>I am strongly opposed to having our beloved cats removed from Old San Juan! I lived in Caleta San Juan where we had a group of people even visitors to the Island loved and took care of our cats. They are an attraction for lots of visitors! They love to take pictures with them and they don't bother anyone! There is an organization in Old San Juan called "Save A Gato" which a lot of us and tourists donate to. They are fed from our pockets ! Not asking government for anything just sympathy to these loving creatures! Old San Juan will never be the same if you remove our wild life from us. I want to plead with you to please let them live and be a part of us.. Thank you 🙏</p>
206	<p>Como ciudadana y amante de los gatos, le pido que por favor hagan todo lo posible por crear grupos con veterinarios para que esterilicen y castran gratuitamente a estos animalitos realengos , que gente irresponsable tuvo en algún momento como mascota y luego los abandonaron. Se necesitan leyes y entidades que ayuden con esta situación. La solución NO es matarlos ,es ayudar a esterilizarlos para que la población no siga procreando y multiplicandose. Tampoco es quitarle la libertad. El gobierno debe de implementar leyes mas fuertes para proteger a estos animalitos ,que lo que buscan es comida y agua para su supervivencia. Ellos no le hacen daño a nadie, solo buscan como alimentarse. Ayúdenlos por favor y que NO LOS MATEN. Ellos No merecen morir. Tampoco es la solución, la solución es esterilizarlos y castrarlos para que no siga creciendo la población Están ahí por gente irresponsable que los abandonaron no porque ellos quisieron. Ayúdenlos por favor.</p>
207	<p>These cats have been part of the community for decades. In addition to their communal value, they are also a significant tourist attraction. Take for example the country of Turkey: Turks are famous for their love of animals and a rich culture of caring for their community cats in particular. Photos and videos of these cats playing and relaxing in their outdoor homes spread like wildfire on social media and have become both a tourist attraction and a sign of the brilliant love and humanity that Turkish culture fosters. Likewise, community cats are known locally to enjoy a very comfortable life in Puerto Rico, and this is something that we should amplify and share with the world.</p> <p>Old San Juan might have its problems, but it is united by its love of cats.</p>
208	<p>Los Gatos llevan muchos años en el Viejo San Juan. Cómo es posible que esta organización se ha hecho responsable de todos los TNR y ahora de la nada quieren sacarlo. EDÚQUENSEN!! Los animales están en el mundo primero que los humanos. Y Los Gatos Han combatido las placas de siempre. En Francia comenzaron a matar Los Gatos y ahora tienen poblados con enfermedades como la leptospirosis, la fiebre de malaria entre otras cosas.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Los gatos NO son problema. NO los maten.
209	<p>La grandeza de un pueblo y su gobierno se conoce por cómo administran asuntos de grandes escalas como es este tema con Los Gatos 🐱 almas indefensas que fueron e terminadas hace años atrás y como consecuencia trajo la peste negra.</p> <p>Los Gatos 🐱 🐱 tiene un papel importante en nuestro ecosistema ayudando a eliminar las plagas no deseadas.</p> <p>Educar y mantenerlos en sus áreas hablaría muy bien de nuestra nación y como nos preocupamos por los más indefensos.</p> <p>Por favor no los maten. Son parte de nuestro viejo San Juan.</p>
210	<p>The existence in PR of the 154 Law protects all the strays animals, so killing them will violate this law and divine law. The solution to the problem of stray animals is not kill all of them; for many years that practice has been used and the problem continues, and each year is worse. The solution for this problem that humanes have caused can be minimize if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government take action and help with free sterilization programs, funds for TNR, implements all the laws and Executive Orders to take control of the situations, assist the organizations that helps these animals with funds and other types of help. 2. Make available shelters in each town as stated by law. 3. Create campaigns for education and consciousness of the importance to sterilize animals and the consequences of throwing an animal into the streets, a crime stated in the 154 Law. 4. Have programs of responsible tenency of animals to inculcate into the childrens the importance and care of domestic animals; in that way we will create a healthy society, with less tendency to throw animals like garbage. 5. Prohibite the shipping and sale of domestic animals in any way. <p>Other european countries had succeed with programs and strategies that take control of the problem, but respect the lifes of those animals. If you really want to have a PR free of stray animals or a capital town, or any town, you can help pressing the Government to take action and implement all the strategies and programs from other countries to succeed.</p>
211	Cats are part of Old San Juan. Most of them are vaccinated and neutered. Save a Gato supply them with food and water. They are not a problem to the population. Instead, they could attract tourists to the area. They have the right to live. Countries like Turkey could be our models for living with animals. They are not the problem, humans are the real problem.
212	Cats are part of Old San Juan. Most of them are vaccinated and neutered. Save a Gato supply them with food and water. They are not a problem to the population. Instead, they could attract tourists to the area. They have the right to live. Countries like Turkey could be our models for living with animals. They are not the problem, humans are the real problem.
213	Mi opinión es que el gobierno debe preparar un santuario para todos los gatitos no vamos a permitir que le hagan daño o los sacrifiquen
214	We love our 'realengo' cats, they are spayed, taken care of, and loved by our community. Please, stop deciding on behalf of Puertorricans, we are fully capable of making our own decisions and taking care of our feral cats. Leave them alone, and take the Junta de Control Fiscal with you.
215	Old San Juan cats are part of the scenery and even the reason some people like to go visit Old San Juan. Those cats, are spayed, feed and taken care of by the local (puertorricans) old San

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Juan community as well as associations like Save a Gato. Please also consider the increase of rats population that will result from the removal of these cats, this not only a matter of preference, is also a matter of health and safety and even possible impact to the comercial activity of the area!</p>
216	<p>Rotundo no ellos tambien son parte de la historia del Viejo San Juan. No solo eso uno inclusive ya uno espera verlos y jugar con ellos cuando va. No a la remocion de los gatos en VSJ</p>
217	<p>Es ilegal el maltrato/asesinato de animales y conlleva cárcel si lo practica un ciudadano común, pero cuando es el gobierno que va a cometer una masacre de animales no es asesinato, es control de plagas, es así como el gobierno el cual trabaja para los que pagamos impuestos osea, ustedes son empleados nuestros, no están impunes a esta velocidad? Me opongo a que cometan ese delito de matar gatos los cuales no representan un peligro para la sociedad ni inminente daño.</p>
218	<p>Sra. Yanira Martinez,</p> <p>Por este medio deseo hacerle llegar mis comentarios sobre el propuesto plan de manejo para las colonias de gatos en VSJ. He leído con detenimiento todo el documento adjunto y debo insistir en que se reevalúen ciertos puntos del mismo. En primer lugar, reitero que es de máxima importancia que el Parks Service mantenga y extienda su Memorando de Entendimiento con Save a Gato ya que esta organización ha tomado sobre sus hombros el peso de esterilizar, alimentar, adoptar y rescatar a los gatos de VSJ por casi 20 años. Cualquier intención opuesta a mantener y extender este acuerdo devengará en un retroceso civilizatorio para nuestro país en lo que respecta a la interacción entre seres humanos y el medio ambiente (sí, el gato es una especie invasora, pero sigue siendo parte de nuestros ecosistemas y de nuestra sociedad). La labor de Save a Gato es un modelo a seguir para Puerto Rico y otros países y me temo que este plan va a desenfocar y restarle a los esfuerzos de educación y concientización empática que esta organización y todos los rescatistas en Puerto Rico (y el mundo entero) están tratando de fomentar.</p> <p>Aquí otros puntos sobre su propuesta:</p> <p>1) El censo que citan del 2021, el cual demostró que la colonia de VSJ ha aumentado a 200 gatos, es un censo de un solo año, y el mismo se compara con el último que se hizo hace 17 años. Cualquiera que trabaje con estadísticas de poblaciones sabe que las poblaciones fluctúan y que un análisis de este tipo debe sustentarse sobre una recolección sistemática a través de los años. Una sola gata puede aportar alrededor de 10-18 crías por año, con una expectativa de vida de 5-7 años en la calle, serían entre 50-126 crías por gata en su periodo de vida. Entonces, un incremento de 80 gatos en la misma localidad significa que el CER SÍ ha sido EFECTIVO. Me parece una falta de respeto a la inteligencia del pueblo que utilicen datos tan esencializados y vagos para justificar este plan de remoción.</p> <p>2) En Puerto Rico, muchos vecinos ya se han estado quejando del uso de agencias privadas supuestamente profesionales para remover gatos y perros realengos de manera “humanitaria”. Si estas agencias privadas son profesionales, y se utilizarán fondos públicos para financiarlas, entonces tienen que proveer con anticipación los nombres de dichas compañías, y la documentación pertinente que establezca cuáles son los criterios que los cualifican para hacer este trabajo. A su vez, el NPS sabe muy bien, a través de su involucramiento con Save A Gato y la situación de los animales realengos en el país, que NO</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>EXISTEN ni las instituciones ni los mecanismos para tratar humanitariamente a los animales que son removidos. ¿A dónde los llevan si en Puerto Rico no contamos con suficientes albergues municipales? ¿Cómo el NPS se asegurará de que haya transparencia sobre el recorrido de estos gatos desde el momento en que son "removidos" hasta el momento en que son qué? ¿Cuál será el destino final de estos gatos? Si no pueden contestar estas preguntas a capacidad y en detalle, entonces el NPS está fomentando infracciones a la Ley 154 en Pro del Bienestar Animal en Puerto Rico.</p> <p>3) Me parece nefasto y negligente que el NPS del VSJ quiera posicionarse como un hábitat prístino comparable a otros parques nacionales de los E.E.U.U. donde sí hay una verdadera amenaza a las especies nativas (por ejemplo, en los parques donde se preservan los bosques nacionales) cuando muy bien saben que el VSJ es un paisaje urbano y sumamente alterado por las constantes prácticas de desarrollo. El VSJ es un espacio constantemente transitado por turistas a pie, por carros, y en sus áreas marítimas por cruceros que contaminan los recursos del agua, suelo y aire. Al cruzar la bahía está la planta de energía eléctrica. Pero ninguno de esos factores se ha considerado como prioridades a atender para salvaguardar a las especies nativas ni para mejorar la experiencia de los visitantes.</p> <p>4) En lo que respecta a los visitantes del VSJ ahora se suman muchos más que vienen específicamente para interactuar con las colonias de Save A Gato porque saben que son colonias manejadas humanamente. Las personas quieren visitar el Paseo porque la presencia de estas colonias, con sus platos de agua y comida, con los letreros que educan sobre el trabajo de Save A Gato proporcionan una experiencia de empatía y un ambiente social que no se encuentra en muchos lugares del mundo, mucho menos turísticos.</p> <p>5) Estos planes de manejo de colonias a través de la "remoción" son precisamente el tipo de mentalidad negligente e inhumana que nos ha traído a la crisis de social y de salubridad que hoy enfrentamos en Puerto Rico. Matar a los animales realengos NO va a solucionar nada. Si el movimiento de CER se hubiese implementado décadas atrás en masa y sistemáticamente, hoy no estaríamos con este problema. Que nuestras instituciones sigan propiciando y endorsando este tipo de mecanismo solo contribuye al detrimento de nuestros valores como sociedad, los cuales van de la mano con la indiferencia y la desvalorización de los animales domésticos que es parte integral en este ciclo de crueldad que vivimos. Estoy segura, que el incremento de 80 gatos que el NPS documentó en su censo del 2021 se debe a la falta de CER en comunidades aledañas, en la falta de empatía y/o recursos de personas que han tirado gatos en la cercanía del Paseo. Es una máxima pena y una decepción total que el National Parks Service tan siquiera considere este mecanismo como una viable luego de 20 años de la presencia de Save A Gato y de los vecinos de VSJ que se han esmerado por buscar verdaderas alternativas viables y humanas para manejar la sobrepoblación de gatos callejeros. Y más aún, valiéndose de datos simplificados que no buscan proveer un verdadero panorama de la fluctuación de la población de gatos en el área.</p> <p>Finalmente, esta es mi propuesta como ciudadana.</p> <p>1) Que el dinero público que buscan gastar en la "remoción" a través de compañías privadas, que parte se le otorgue a Save A Gato para que puedan expandir sus operaciones prácticas (CER, vacunación, monitoreo de colonias, rescate de casos difíciles, eutanasia en casos necesarios, adopción) y educativas y, que otra parte se dirija a mantener los espacios del Paseo limpios de basura humana.</p> <p>2) Que se desarrolle una visión del Paseo que incluya a todas las especies que lo habitan INCLUYENDO a los gatos callejeros. Esta visión debe devenir en un plan de trabajo a ponerse en pie en el próximo año. Este plan debería enfocarse más en la modificación del</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>hábitat (cacios, verjas, etc.) que ayuden a mantener los gatos en ciertas áreas y que a su vez faciliten la labor de lo voluntarios de Save A Gato.</p> <p>3) Que se elimine por completo la consideración de la "remoción" como alternativa humanitaria pues NO LO ES.</p> <p>4) Qué se hagan públicos los documentos de las compañías privadas que el NPS cita como proveedores de servicios de remoción.</p> <p>5) Que se ausculten otras medidas para mejorar la calidad de experiencia de los visitantes del Paseo que no devengan en un plan de eutanasia a los gatos callejeros</p>
219	<p>The community cares for these cats. They are spayed/neutered and form part of the local population. Please, do not destroy cats that are healthy and post no danger to anyone.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
220	<p>We first encountered the Paseo del Morro cats on a cruise in 2013. We love them, have donated to Save-a-Gato for their care, and returned several times (including our honeymoon) mainly to visit them. The cats are a huge part of the appeal of Old San Juan, and in my opinion, the National Park Service should view caring for them as part of their mandate, and support the work of Save-a-Gato and the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program. Thank you.</p>
221	<p>Muy triste de que deseen sacar los gatitos del área de San Juan. Estos gatitos están esterelizados y bien cuidados. Mi hija llegó a hacer labor voluntario en el centro donde les dan atención médica y los cuidan. Dios permita que no los sacrifiquen.</p>
222	<p>I don't understand the need for this action. There are so many parks that need a lot of maintenance, like overgrown weeds and excessive trash, among other things. And yet for some reason you guys want to spend resources on removing the cats? You can't remove every living being from existing on this planet. People like cats and dogs and nature in general. Even places like Istanbul you will see cats everywhere, just existing like God intended. How about you focus on providing resources and efforts for improving things rather than killing cats?</p>
223	<p>I am very disappointed to hear that the cats of Old San Juan will be "managed" by the National Park Service. These animals are a beloved and internationally known part of the draw to the Old Town, and it will not be the same without them. There is a wonderful organization called Save a Gato that cares for the free roaming cats, and resources would be better spent on supporting their volunteer efforts</p> <p>.</p>
224	<p>Saludos, Soy nacida y criada en PR. Los gatos en el paseo del Morro son parte del entorno. No estoy de acuerdo en usar medidas de exterminio alguno. Más bien se debe coordinar para esterilizar las faltas y mantener control de reproducción. Los gatos son parte integral de esa área. Vean lo que hacen otros países donde se protegen estos animalitos.</p>
225	<p>No se atrevan a matarlos, busquen cómo los pueden operar y busquen no kill shelter para ellos. Es una responsabilidad ciudadana, pero también de el gobierno, abrir y proveer shelter para los animalitos. Please do not kill them just because you want a clean space they deserve a HOME.</p>
226	<p>Puerto Rico residents want to protect cats against removal from all Old San Juan parks and common areas.</p> <p>Many tourists and general public visit Old San Juan and enjoy watching and taking pictures of the cat colonies. They love to visit countries like Turkey, Greece, Italy, Japan, etc, where cat colonies thrive and are protected by organizations like Old San Juan's SAVE A GATO.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	They feed them, neuter them, and keep them in a great condition. What you are trying to do is ABUSE against San Juan Cats.
227	Let's us be an example to be followed around the world in respect to the way we care and care of our beloved strayed animals.
228	Don't kill the cats. We value them in PR. Our culture is different to mainland US, please respect our local customs.
229	We NEED Save a Gato to continue saving the cats in OUR community!!!
230	I am very upset to hear that the National Park Service is developing a plan to eliminate the historic cat colony in Old San Juan. These cats are a joy for tourists and locals alike to encounter. They bring life and fun to the city. One of my favorite things in San Juan is the Save a Gato house where you can see the cats gathered to eat and enjoy their care free life in the tropics.
231	<p>Estoy totalmente en desacuerdo con el proyecto para sacar Los Gatos del Viejo San Juan. Los Gatos Han sido los que han eliminado las cientos de placas del viejo San Juan. Han sido parte de nuestra cultura y hemos demostrado a todos los visitantes que somos pro bienestar de los animales gracias a esta organización Save a Gato quienes se dieron la tarea de esterilización y control de la colonia.</p> <p>Son peonas que su compromiso va mucho más allá. No creo que nadie que no haya sido rescatista puede dar cátedra del sacrificio que es controlar, alimentar, vacunar, etc a los animales que muchos irresponsables han dejado atrás para a su suerte y que personas cómo está organización han dado todo su apoyo.</p> <p>Cuántas fotos han subido a las redes mostrando los felinos del Viejo San Juan y he sabido que en muchas de las ocasiones estos nos han comparado con otros países como el ejemplo a seguir. Y esto a sido Gracias a estas personas. Deberíamos respetar, ayudar y apoyar a organizaciones cómo está que nos hace resaltar a nivel mundial. No me quiero imaginar lo que pensaría el resto del mundo y quienes han visitado el viejo San Juan al enterarse de tan desvergonzaos plan para sacar a nuestro indefensos felinos. Es que da pudor, angustia y solo pensar por lo que estos pobres seres pasarán si este absurdo Olán se lleva a cabo.</p> <p>Esto me hace recordar lo que sucedió en un poblado de Francia que cuando quisieron matar y sacar a todos Los Gatos se encontraron con personas con leptospirosis y la fiebre bubónica. Ustedes han caminado por el viejo San Juan. Ahora así se puede caminar pero recuerdo hace más de 25 años las cucarachas y ratines eran la noticia del día. Era espantoso.</p> <p>Apoyare y marcharé a favor de que se queden los felinos y que sea Save a Gato quienes son personas adiestrados para seguir manejando a nuestros felinos.</p>
232	<p>Good Evening: it's with a heavy heart that I have learned about the plans of your office to "manage" the feral cats in Old San Juan. I'am an avid cat lover, rescuer, manager of a small colony in my condo. The cats in Old SJ have been there for decades. They are cared for by the Save a Gato organization. They are part of the landscape of Old SJ. They represent absolutely no threat to anyone. On the contrary they are threatened by bystanders in the city. People that don't like cats abs have a deep prejudices against them. As it is they struggle to survive without a permanent home. They absolutely DONT need anymore threats nor menace to their well being. They are part of this world too. They have every right to be there. Please I beg you DONT take away the home the have ever known.</p> <p>Cordially Yours Wanda Luquis-Chaar</p>
233	Leave the damn cats alone. Plenty of places receive tourists specifically because of their cat colonies and the cultures that support them, such as Istanbul and the Greek islands.
234	Please do not remove the cats from Viejo San Juan near of the Morro. They been there a long time & also they are sterilyze & vacunated most of them. By the non profit

Corr ID	Correspondence
	organization Save A Sato & people near from the community that also feed them. Those cats are even part of the attractions to the tourists that come to El Morro. Please dont take them out! Do like other countries that let them live freely in the community with the people.
235	<p>Hello;</p> <p>I oppose the plan of killing the cat colony near El Morro. This is inhumane. These cats were neutered by the community, and are being taken care of.</p> <p>Talk with the community, your neighbors, to find an adequate solution to this. Stop behaving like a unilateral authority, because there is people living in San Juan that care about the cats lives.</p> <p>Thanks;</p>
236	<p>Greetings</p> <p>My comments are regarding the topic of the intentions of massively euthanizing the cats of Viejo San Juan.</p> <p>The Government of Puerto Rico has the responsibility to provide free and accesible sterilization for cats and dogs. This was viciously eliminated .We the people provide our time, donations, and resources out of our pockets for the social compromise and moral values and love for this innocent animals. Let's not forget the 20 plus years of hard work and dedication of many Organizations. We are talking about sentient beings! Also many parks and Historic Places Internationally have the pleasure of incorporated cats for the maintenance and to decrease plagues. We do not appreciate or approve this "plan".We will fight for the voice and rights of the voiceless !!!</p>
237	<p>Viví 7 años en el Viejo San Juan. El plan controlado de gatos funcionaba y funciona a la perfección. No había ratas en las casas ni en las viejas calles. Es innecesario y salvaje el eliminar a esos animales que han hecho más bien que otra cosa.</p> <p>I lived 7 years at the Old San Juan. The Plan for acontrol of Cats in aold San Juan did function and still function to perfection. There were no rats or rodents in the houses and in Old San Juan Streets. Its unnecessary and savage to eliminate those animals that instead of being a plsgue, are of benefit for the community.</p>
238	<p>I am terribly saddened and upset with the NPS' recent decision to kill the cats in San Juan, including the Paseo de Princess and other places. I am Puerto Rican, and visited PR this past June. One of my favorite parts of the trip was visiting the cats with my relatives living in PR. I do not understand why you would kill these beautiful animals who tourists love. Most of these cats are spayed or neutered and pose no risk - to safety, health, the public or otherwise. I was there when volunteers with Save a Gato were there feeding cats and it was beautiful. Please reconsider this horrible decision to destroy these living, beautiful beings. TNR works and is a benefit. Killing cats is not the solution.</p>
239	<p>The cats don't bother anyone and they cost the government absolutely nothing. They are neutered and clean, nothing to complain about. Taking them out of their home is an injustice. We all know that if they're moved they're going to be killed. Volunteers keep the program alive therefore I see no need for government involvement unless it is to help said cats.</p>
240	<p>Escribo para expresar mi total repudio por el proyecto de exterminar los gatos del Viejo San Juan. Los gatos existen en la vieja ciudad desde hace siglos, para control de plagas. Entidades sin fines de lucro en adición a los vecinos se han encargado de esterilizarlos y alimentarlos por años. Entiéndase que "remover los gatos" significa que los van a matar, mejor díganlo</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>directamente, pues es imposible conseguirle hogares a gatos ferales que están acostumbrados a vivir en la intemperie. Esto es un atropello y una masacre.</p> <p>A quién se le ha ocurrido semejante idea? A quién molestan los gatos? La indignación que siento es inmensa.</p>
241	<p>Cats in Old San Juan are a cultural thing. I enjoy walking El Paseo around and seeing them. I've never had any issues with smells or feces when visiting and many groups take care of these cats. By removing them, NPS might cause an infestation of rats and other vermin that are currently under control since the cats take care of them. The cats should stay in Old San Juan.</p>
242	<p>Please don't get rid of the cats! On my honeymoon to PR earlier this year I made a special trip to the Save A Gato Park to pet the kitties. Highlight of my day and I loved seeing the little stations throughout the city that take care of them. Made my San Juan experience unique and wonderful.</p>
243	<p>There is no good reason to cull the cats of Princess Walk and surrounding areas! Most of these cats were lovingly spayed/neutered and vaccinated by people who care. They have spent their own money and time doing so. Not one dime came from the government! These cats are the product of people who don't care. People don't spay/neuter their pets, they abandon them. The best you can do for them is let people who actually care continue to provide for them and ensure their population is maintained. Trap Neuter Return is THE most humane thing you can do for them. Start cracking down on people for being irresponsible with their pets!</p>
244	<p>This proposed San Juan National Historic Park Free-Ranging Cat Management Plan is, quite frankly, a terrible idea. These cats are well taken care of, fed and, most importantly, loved by volunteers and a whole community. I do not understand why NPS and other parties see these creatures as pests and not part of the aesthetic/charm of the San Juan National Historic Park. Istanbul, a city that sees millions of visitors every year, has a great history of feral cats that are part of their community, where people take care of them and even the government takes a proactive role in helping with their well being, while also mandating sterilization. It is sad that NPS, rather than emulate Istanbul, wants to take the easy way out and simply remove these cats, hoping this will be a permanent "solution" (very likely it will not be as permanent as some would hope).</p> <p>I ask NPS not to move forward with this proposal and instead, work with local volunteers and other community members to find an alternative that addresses concerns without causing irreparable damage. There is no reason why these defenseless, smart and affectionate creatures cannot be part of the charm of historic San Juan.</p>
245	<p>I do not agree with the massacre that U.S want to do to the cats located on the princess walk. Cats are cared for and are not a danger to society. These cats are well cared for and fed. Witness it with my own eyes and the Save a Sato organization takes care of everything voluntarily without receiving anything in return for their laudable work.</p> <p>I strongly disagree that they sacrifice the lives of these cats</p>
246	<p>El programa de TNR es parte de lo que debe ser la solución al abandono de animales en Puerto Rico. En cambio, eliminar este programa lo que hará será crear un vacío. Un vacío que otras colonias felinas poblarán sin control con gatos no esterilizados y sin cuidado médico. Igual, la gente seguirá abandonando gatos en la puerta del Morro porque nunca se buscó resolver la raíz del problema sino que se eliminó la solución intermediaria.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	This TNR program is a fundamental part of what should constitute a larger solution to animal neglect in Puerto Rico. Instead, what this federal proposal aims to do will create a vacuum. A vacuum that other cats will fill without having the proper medical care nor a spay/neuter action plan in place. This will create an out of control situation for the cats, residents and tourists. Yet, people will continue to abandon cats in Old San Juan because the root cause was never addressed an the interim solution was removed.
247	Please leave the cat colony alone! They are a charming fixture of the experience of Old San Juan just as much as the castles. They were my daughter's favorite part of our visit last year and it would be heartbreaking to see them harmed or removed.
248	Cats maintain the rodent population and this community is well cared for and controlled through spaying/neutering. It would be a terrible mistake to create a system imbalance by eliminating the felines.
249	What problem? What is the purpose of this plan? There is an organization already taking care of them. They are a part of the city and should not be seen as a nuisance or disposable. It is downright cruel considering they have always lived there freely, harming nobody. You are the ones causing the harm.
250	The solution is no the removal of the existent cats. Others will come to fill the gap. The solution is a comprehensive cat health care including sterilization. There are voluntary, not for profit organizations in existence, that properly funded may help control the situation. The cat population is very fluid, with frequent newcomers. They must be promptly identified and sterilized, if it is going to work. Sequestering the current population is a temporary "solution", akin to sequestering the homeless people: more will eventually come.
251	I am opposing the removal of the cats at Old San Juan. Save a Gato and the residents take care of these cats and they don't bother anybody. Tourists are friendly to them and the small stretch where I saw the Save a Gato office is charming because of its many peaceful felines. The best thing would be to further fund the sterilization programs so the population can be contained that way. It would the most humane and effective strategy. We love the cats of VSJ.
252	This cats are prqctically part of our history. A group called Safe a Sato was taking care of them for years. We have to prtect them..not kill them. We have to fight for them.
253	Please DO NOT eliminate the cats in Old San Juan! They are the reason many people visit there! They are spayed/neutered and well taken care of, They are a part of the Old San Juan community.
254	Those cats are part of historic Old San Juan's culture. They have been there for over 20 years. Please don't displace them! They are loved and cared for.
255	Please don't rid the cats in San Juan
256	I oppose the idea of destroying /displacing the now historic cat colony. We need to work towards a sanctuary that preserves this unique cultural one in a million occurance.
257	As a resident of Old San Juan I'm deeply saddened with this news. I both live and work in Old San Juan. The cats have become an emblem of the city. I work with tourists and the amount of people that mention that one of their favorite parts of San Juan was walking through el Paseo del Morro and encountering all the different cats is very high. I've heard countless of stories of tourists that enjoy walking there and even bringing cat food to feed them. Locals and those visiting from the diaspora share nostalgic stories of walking over there and seeing the cats. The car population in Old San Juan has been here for quite a long time. I remember watching a documentary and hearing Inés Mendoza, the former First Lady, back when Luis Muñoz Marin was governor, talking about feeding cats in the old city. Therefore the cats have been here in the city much longer than a lot of people. Displacing

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>them would be wrong. Please take into consideration other approaches, those cats aren't hurting anyone. Save a gato has been doing an amazing job at taking care of them. By taking away the cats we would be taking away an integral part of city, something that has identified the city for years.</p>
258	<p>I don't know why anyone would want to get rid of the cat colony by El Morro - the cats are well taken care of. They're given food and veterinary care if they need it and don't bother anyone. Also, why is the government spending a bunch of money and resources to try to get rid of it when there are so many other things that they could be used on in Puerto Rico?</p>
259	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I wanted to comment on the proposed solution for the cat problem in San Juan. I believe that more help from the government both locally and federal would be beneficial to confront this problem and not let Save a Gato and other organizations rely only on donations.</p> <p>I can say the cats are not aggressive. Rarely would they scratch or attack anybody unprovoked. As of most creatures.</p> <p>Cats by definition eat small insects and rats, controlling plagues. Anyone that has been to San Juan knows the cockroaches are huge.</p> <p>Lets say you remove the cats and euthanize them, what is to say more wont come and take their place?</p> <p>I believe we should look at a more long term approach such as listening to the voices who are on the ground such as Save a Gato, give them the funding they need to monitor the situation and attack the abandonment of animals in the Island.</p> <p>Thanks,</p>
260	<p>Please leave the cats alone! I am a stateside Puerto Rican and I loved seeing the cats when I visited San Juan. The cats are one of my favorite parts about San Juan and the El Morro area. I went back many times to areas with cats just to watch them and talk to them, and they were sweet and beautiful cats! Save a Gato does excellent work to trap-neuter-release, vaccinate and feed the feral cats, and to adopt out ones that can be pets. Please let Save a Gato and their community of volunteers continue their work with the cats. Leave the cats alone and let them be.</p>
261	<p>So, you all planed to kill cats but not dogs? Dogs are more dangerous than cats in the streets! Catas kills rats and other thinks that the dogs don't do. Please, try and review this mistake or understood. But cats are NOT DANGEROUS, DOGS DO.</p>
262	<p>The cats in El Paseo del Morro are not doing any harm to anybody, all of those cats have been vaccinated and they even have stations where people leave them food. There's even an organization that takes care of them. There's no need to take them out, and there's definitely no need for you to get rid of them. There fine and happy where they are in this moment, so like I said, there's no need to get them out.</p>
263	<p>Por favor no maten los gatos del morro en San Juan, PR ellos son terapéuticos. Además son un atractivo turístico</p>
264	<p>A quien pueda interesar,</p> <p>En Puerto Rico todas las cosas buenas se logran gracias a entidades sin fines de lucro que con</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>mucho esfuerzo y amor por nuestro país trabajan y traen soluciones a las muchas causas justas que el gobierno no atiende.</p> <p>En esta ocasión me solidarizo y endoso a las organizaciones que por años han protegido y trabajado con la población de gatos en el Viejo San Juan, esterilizando, vacunando y alimentándolos. Sería muy injusto implantar un plan como el que presentan para eutanazarlos. Estos voluntarios han invertido esfuerzo, tiempo y dinero en el control de esta población.</p> <p>El problema NO se va a resolver matando a estos animales. Es la ciudadanía que abandona los animales y hace que se perpetúe la situación de animales callejeros en TODA la isla.</p> <p>El plan que sí da resultado es la esterilización masiva. No hay otra. Está comprobado.</p> <p>Mientras haya animales no esterilizados, seguirán los problemas de la sobre población de animales callejeros.</p> <p>Confiado que le darán la atención e importancia a esta situación.</p>
265	<p>Hi</p> <p>In other countries the involvement of the government and the veterinaries working together in sterilizing and releasing cats and dogs around their country has been effective. They released them with a tag so everybody knows theyre sterilized!</p> <p>Now they are a lot but later they will be less and less! Not only there ia a big problem in old San Juan ; its all around the Island. But San Juan can start doing this and being an example! The people will be satisfied their not killed!</p> <p>Thanks</p>
266	<p>Cats do not belongs to el Paseo San Juan. Plans to control population are not working. The smell is unbearable. It is time to take action and remove any invasive species from the area.</p>
267	<p>He sido y soy una persona que se preocupa por el bienestar de nuestras comunidades en general. Por esta razon he promovido en mi ciudad programas de TNR. Estas iniciativas no solo previene el nacimiento de nuevas gatos o animales realengos. Los gatos del paseo del morro fueron parte de mi aprendizaje y voluntariado. Los gatos no estan alli necesariamente porque nacieron alli, si no por la irresponsabilidad de los ciudadanos que siguen abandonandolos.</p> <p>Safe a gato durante los pasados 20 años se ha dedicado junto a personas como yo a encargarse no solo de esterilizar y vacunar a estos gatos realengos, si no a dar una opcion que es sostenible. Numca se ha probsdo que el exterminar gatos elimina el problema, ya que nuevos abandonos y nacimientos siguen ocurriendo y cuando un grupo se mueve o extermina, llegara otro a sustituirlo.</p> <p>No estoy de acuerdo con la propuesta, no resuelve nada al final del dia, y solo nos hace menos humanos y mas insencibles.</p>
268	<p>This is not a solution. Lets work together to save and respect the cats lives.</p> <p>This is not fair and is unacceptable.</p>
269	<p>Killing the cats that are found in San Juan is inhumane, it is wrong. There are other BETTER ways to take care of the overpopulation and it has to do with the people that bring their own pets and abandon them in San Juan, not to mention the cats are harmless and do nothing wrong to the environment except being advantageous to the cleanse of rats in the Old San Juan.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
270	<p>The free ranging cats cared fo by save a gato are my favorite part of old san juan. I have gone to the old san juan more than once just to see the cats.</p> <p>I would hate to them removed, or to see the work being done by save a gato be altered in any way.</p>
271	<p>People from all around the world come to see the cat colonies of Puerto Rico. The cats help the health of old San Juan and the national parks. It is very important that you do not harm any animals.</p>
272	<p>Leave the cats alone. Save a Gato does a fine job with population control and management. Frankly, I don't appreciate the federal government coming to manage Puerto Rico's island attractions. Ayoshima Island in Japan has a population of cats 6 times over the human population, yet they're a national attraction, not a pest. Frankly, any money that's going to be spent on this project should actually be used to fund Save a Gato and their trap, neuter, release program. It's unbelievable to me that this is happening.</p>
273	<p>This thing that the government or National Parks wants to do, IS NOT RIGHT!!!!!! I AM NOT IN FAVOR!!!! People needs to tolerate animals. Cats in Viejo San Juan are not savages. This is something CRUEL. They help and eliminate pest!!!! I can't believe why humans act like this, to kill those little animals. Please STOP THIS.</p>
274	<p>I support save a gato!</p>
275	<p>I do not agree with the proposed plan. As a local, I visit the park regularly and have no problems with the cats being there, it is their home. They should be left alone.</p>
276	<p>I am not a resident of San Juan but since my first visit, I have contributed to Save a Gato. My husband and I happened upon the door to the city and then the Paseo del Morro Trail. I was amazed by the beauty and then there were the cats. Living amongst the rocks between the ocean and the fort. I immediately noticed that these were not uncared-for strays but instead well-cared-for and beloved animals. I purchased a children's book inside the fort about the cats. I enjoyed seeing them and knowing they were cared for.</p> <p>Now that I have read the proposal of the National Parks service I feel that the problem with the cats is more of a problem with the humans. If the colony of cats has been fed and vaccinated by Save a Gato and returned to where it came the problem is not that colony of cats it is with the carelessness of other humans not caring for their own animals.</p> <p>Not knowing the exact number of cats I can understand the concern for overpopulation but I think removing all of the cats from as far as I have read have been inhabitants for more than 400 years would be like removing the 6-toed cat population from Hemingway's home in Key West. I as well can see a concern for other wildlife since I am sure the rat population is in check.</p> <p>I believe I understand the mission of the parks service is to preserve natural and cultural resources. I don't believe removing all of the cats is the answer. I feel that setting a limit and maintaining it while educating the human population of city may better help your goal of reducing the size of the colony of cats.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
277	<p>Tendrán una epidemia d leptospirosis causada x las ratas y las casas llenas d cucarachas! Vean los vídeos d Turquía</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
278	The appropriate and humane decision would be to trap, spay/neuter, and release. Slaughtering innocent animals because they occupy that space is ethically and inherently WRONG. Please prove through your actions and decisions that your moral compass is still true.
279	This cats are part of San Juan, they too are a tourist attraction, we need them! They're being feed by the locals and others, these cats are from a Non-Profit organization called 'Save a Gato' y'all don't understand we need this, we don't have shelters enough for animals. You don't know how difficult it is to find shelter for stray cats, even though they need to be sterilized to be there, there's no more room for abandoned cats. Why don't y'all build a shelter enough for all those cats and let's not forget the dogs... WE NEED OUR ANIMALS. They support us, they are the happiness to some people, might be guardians, these animals were wrongly abandoned by people and this non profit organization took them in and took care of them. Please stop this madness we want the cats to stay. They are not hurting anybody and certainly they are not hurting the territory of San Juan!
280	Re: Paseo Del Morro in old San Juan and concerns for stray population control I understand the welfare of feral cats in old San Juan depends on willingness of people to deal with them responsibly and intelligently. There's a lot of punitive accountability, and thus creates dilemma between local property owners, bird lovers, and animal conservationist. Being a lot time visitor of old San Juan, seeing the stretching cats with big round eyes on a lazy afternoon is one of the reasons I fell in love with PR and have consistently gone back to visit. Instead of thinking about "population control", perhaps a more intelligent potential solution is to open a Cat Cafe. This has become quite a popular idea around the world. Not only can it bring additional revenue for animal activist group to help spay more animal, it also serve as a function to help them get adopted. Please
281	Im against the capture/ eutanziation of the cats in viejo san juan. Local organizations take care of them and vaccinate them, theyre part of san juan and the scenery, all the locals love them. Please, take your colonial policies somewhere else. Have a nice day.
282	ASESINAR a Los Gatos del Viejo San Juan es una locura. Esos gatos que son cuidados, alimentados y protegidos por residentes y organizaciones sin fines de lucro, son quienes mantienen el casco libre de la ratas, ratones y otras sabandijas. Desde hace años, Save a Gato se ha dedicado 100% a la esterilización, cuidados y adopción de esos residentes de cuatro patas a los cuales, hoy sin justificación válida, quieren ASESINAR. Científicamente hablando, está probado que el eliminar Gatos de un area, NO es solución, porque Los Gatos son territoriales y en poco tiempo, vendrán otros a ocupar ese espacio. Lo que necesitamos es ayuda, fondos, programas de esterilización a bajo costo y/o gratuita en toda la isla, porque definitivamente estamos enfrentando una crisis de sobre población y maltrato animal, y los pocos recursos que tenemos, no son suficientes. En el caso de San Juan, esos gatos son afortunados de vivir allí porque son parte de una comunidad que los respeta, y hasta se han vuelto parte de la cultura y atracciones principales de la ciudad amurallada.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Hoy levanto mi voz por los que no la tienen oponiéndome rotundamente a esta masacre.
283	I just wanted to say that when my husband and I visited we loved seeing all the cats. Initially I was worried they were not taken care of but it became clear they were. They were friendly and one of favorite parts of our trip. While the cats may be invasive they have become a part of San Juan and they are taken care of.
284	I visit San Juan frequently and have always enjoyed the paseo cats on walks there. I imagine they help naturally keep rodent population down (without use of harmful rodenticide). I do not understand the reasoning behind reports to remove this population.
285	I enjoyed my interactions with the cats of Old San Juan. There is an organization there that takes care of them, please defer to the local organization. I think the best approach would be to coordinate and provide support / funding for that group.
286	I firmly oppose to the killing cats from Old San Juan. Those cats have already have TNR and vaccinations. Cats do not harm people and they are friendly. Besides in OR there is a law against killing animals. And many of them are being adopted.
287	Los Gatos del viejo San Juan son un atractivo turístico y no le hacen daño a nadie. La organización Save a Gato lleva muchos años cuidando y esterilizando esos gatos. Los Gatos controlan plagas. Si los remueves pasará como en otros países que entonces el area se llena de ratas. NO estoy de acuerdo con que sean removidos
288	Saludos. Soy amante de los gatos y disfruto pasear por las murallas de SJ y ver la colonia de gatos. Estos se han vuelto parte de la cultura de la ciudad amurallada y el turismo. Respetuosamente opino que deben permanecer en el área con ayuda voluntaria de alimentarlos (como hasta ahora), operarlos a todos para evitar que se sigan reproduciendo y el mantenimiento adecuado de las áreas comunes. El gato es un animal de hábitos muy limpios. Por favor, espero que la alternativa no sea sacrificarlos por que le molestan a alguien.
289	Buenos dias Por favor, es indispensable que se remueva lo mas pronto posible los gatos de este parque nacional como tambien de cualquier parque nacional dentro de Puerto Rico. Esta servidora es "pet lover" y al dia de hoy tengo tres perros, dos gatos y tres pajaros, todos rescatados. El actual programa que existe en El Viejo San Juan es excelente y personalmente conozco que asiste de manera responsable a los gatos realengos del area, pero existen muchos otros gatos que se mueven a esa área ya que hay comida y agua, pero se desconoce la condicion fisica de esos gatos. Ademas, hay demasiadas de personas irresponsables que recogen a gatos en su area de residencia y los llevan alli. En mi urbanizacion Estancia en el pueblo de Bayamon (frente al Parque de las Ciencias), tenemos un residente que estaba desapareciendo a los gatos de la urbanizacion (eran gatos con dueños, muy bien cuidados), pero como salian a caminar por el area el los recogia y los llevaba alli, y a otros desafortunadamente los envenenaba. Actualmente existe una demanda de varios vecinos contra esa persona, y de ahi nos enteramos a donde a llevado a varios de ellos, los dueños han ido al area y solamente a uno pudieron rescatar. En San Juan existe exageradamente muchisimos gatos realengos (mayormente en el area de Santurce), y ya es tiempo que tango el municipio de San Juan, el gobierno estatal y federal establezca un plan de corrección ya.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Siempre a sus ordenes,
290	Protect our abandon cats and dogs in Puerto Rico. Implement a TNR Program to control cats populations Prohibit abuse against out abandon animals
291	Detengan el plan de eliminar Los Gatos itinerantes del Viejo San Juan. Ellos son Gatos alimentados diariamente, vacunados , esterilizados y cuidados. No son un estorbos. No son un peligro. No son una plaga. No son contaminantes. No están abandonados, son Gatos bajo el cuidado de una organización non-profit, llamada "Save a gato". Ellos ayudan en el turismo y en el control de plagas. Es una barbaridad que lo quieran eliminar e inhumano.
292	Qué falta de respeto... no les basta con empujarnos a les boricuas fuera de nuestra Isla, también quieren eliminar proyectos de caridad que han estado décadas operando sin ningún problema. Let's be honest, "protect the visitors" just means accommodation for tourists. What about the hundreds of people living in Viejo San Juan taking care of these felines? Every local I've known that lives in OSJ is more than fine with Save A Gato operating there. The cats not only bring comfort to many elders living alone in OSJ, but have also contributed to the management of rats and other pests, which most would consider more damaging than the cats. And if tourists/gringos have a problem with that, they can GO HOME.
293	Entiendo que quieras salir de estás pobres criaturas por sus nesesidades pero si lo vemos del punto que el gato es un animal tan inteligente no es una amenaza para el humano caza ratones entre otras plagas son amorosos e visitando y allí los mantienen con comida adicional a eso e visto al mismo turista disfrutar de ellos solo nesesitan que creen un Plan para castrar e operar a los que faltan para que no se sigan procreando no matarlos y sacarlos de lo que se a vuelto su hogar tengamos empatía por estos animalitos
294	The cats of Old San Juan and Paseo del Morro are iconic! They provide much needed pest control (I cannot imagine the cockroaches in old San Juan if it weren't for the cats!). I cannot believe what I am reading regarding the possibility of these cats being euthanized or relocated or any such disturbance of their status quo, what problems do they cause? Do you know how many tourists I have taken to visit the cats of OSJ and the Paseo del morro? It's all they ever talk about when leaving Puerto Rico, they are a vital part of the tourism of the old town, I've never seen a person complain not once about their presence, they are cared for and loved by many volunteers, talk about creating a problem where one does not exist!
295	Les solicito que no maten los gatos del Viejo San Juan de Puerto Rico. Esos gatos están esterilizados y son alimentados por miembros de la comunidad. Sería una masacre innecesaria que debe evitarse a toda costa.
296	The cats at Paseo del Morro are a treasure. They are some of the reasons we continue to visit. Please leave them to live and continue to be cared for by the lovely organizations that are doing so already. I agree that abandonment of animals is a problem on the island, but this is not the solution to that problem. That is a people and rescue organization existence and funding problem. A humane approach from an organization who is dedicated to finding homes or another location to exist should be the approach here if this moves forward. They are a treasure and do not deserve to be eliminated. This brings tourism and character to the area.
297	¡Imposible! Da verguenza; en otros países como Turquía los protejen, los esterilizan y hasta les proveen agua y comida en la calle. ¡¡¡NO, NO Y NO!!! 😞 La agrupación Save a Sato hace una extraordinaria labor de esterilización y vacunación de los gatos. Además de cuidarlos, protegerlos y proveerles agua y comida.

Corr ID	Correspondence
298	<p>My wife and I moved to Puerto Rico roughly 2 years ago. While we were considering the move, finding out about Save a Gato and their respectful mission to allow cats to coexist in the beautiful town of Old San Juan was one of the many positives that eventually swung us towards the move. This is in stark contrast with how strays are treated in most US cities, where animals are trapped, taken to pounds, and if not rehomed, killed. The thought that any wild animal is a pest that must be eradicated is draconian and has no place in our modern understanding of animal rights and conciseness. These cats are not harming anyone and have become a welcome custodian to the beauty of the forts of Old San Juan. The care for these cats that Save a Gato provides is such a beautiful display of the kindness, generosity and compassion of the people of Puerto Rico. It is immediate and powerful and a message that I think the majority of those who visit Old San Juan understand, appreciate and many take back with them to their respective homes.</p> <p>Don't remove this cornerstone positive of Old San Juan - fight for compassion and coexistence of animals with people!</p>
299	<p>First, I would like to state for the record that I am an animal lover. I own a pet and historically my family had multiple animals, which were considered our pets and part of the family (goat, cows, dogs, hens, ducks, etc.). We learn by my family example not only how to treat, feed and take care of our pets but also the commitments, responsibilities, and obligations we have with our pets and its affiliation with the community. We kept the pets on an adequate area proper for them and always respecting the people in our community.</p> <p>The problem of the uncontrollable number of free-ranging cats within the San Juan National Historic Sites (and I will say in all areas of the Old San Juan) is excessive and disgusting. Last month an aggressive free-ranging cat attacked my family, including my dog, near La Fortaleza. The policeman guarding the area notices the situation and throw water to the cat to help us. He mentions that this cat is very aggressive with all individuals going nearby.</p> <p>Last Wednesday 26OCT22, a group of friends, including visitors from MA, USA, decided to go to Old San Juan to view the Roberto Clemente 3,000 Hits exposure at La Princesa. We noticed the excessive population of free-ranging cats in Old San Juan, the bad odor from the cat's biological needs and multiple food stations all over from El Paseo La Princesa, El Paseo del Morro, La Fortaleza and El Castillo San Felipe Del Morro. We observed cat's food on the floor and containers with water, that looks have few days without been changed.</p> <p>There are people that are allergic to the cats and/or have fears to cats that are avoiding going to enjoy our beautiful historic city of Old San Juan. The free-ranging cats are considered vectors that can spread disease. The free-ranging cats' situation is a safety and health issue that needs to be address in a timely manner.</p> <p>I completely disagree that the streets and historic monuments are being converted by few persons in their personal animal refugee area. Enjoying our historical places and streets should be a pleasant and enjoyable experience to all visitors, locals and around the World.</p> <p>Please free San Juan National Historic Sites and Old San Juan of free-ranging cats and made the individuals who feeds them accountable for any damage the free-ranging cats are causing.</p> <p>I agree with the National Park Administration - Proposed Action Plan and Strategy. Feel free to contact me if I can be of any further help.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
300	I am appalled to hear the plan to KILL the cats in Old San Juan. There is a group Save a Gato that has been taking care of them and spaying , feeding and vaccinating. This is a cruel and horrific plan. Whomever is leading this effort has to be in jail for animal abuse. And byw that doesn't happen un the US who the cats if Old San Juan. They are part of the community and they eliminate rats.
301	Yo me opongo a la exterminación de Gatos en San Juan. Los Gatos son inofensivos y no hacen daño a nadie. En Puerto Rico hay una ley q protege los animales. Además somos muchos las personas q estamos cooperando vacunando y haciéndole TNR a los gatitos y así estén saludable. Hay q pensar que DIOS está vigilante . No se hagan atrocidades contra los animales!
302	NO estoy de acuerdo que Los Gatos de San Juan sean removidos, esos gatos están vacunados y esterilizados, no le hacen daño a nadie. Eso es un atractivo que tiene San Juan, si los remueven, se empezarán a ver las ratas corriendo por las calles, como sucede en otros países. NO estoy de acuerdo que los remuevan.
303	Please, STOP your plan to manage-control-eliminate the historic cat colony that lives at Paseo del Morro in Old San Juan. The cats are fed daily. These cats are spayed and neutered too.
304	There is an obvious indifference towards all these creatures (cats, dogs and all others) that, most, were simply left by their owners. If there is something to be done it should be to help keep them safe and never to harm them. We are losing the human in humanity every time acts of violence like simply putting them to sleep because it suits the government. Seek for real and good intentioned solutions. Be the example that the coming generation needs.
305	I am vehemently opposed to removing these cats. This is their home, they are part of OSJ, and are all friendly. Anyone willing to betray a trusting animal is trash, and it fills me with rage to imagine a cat innocently walking up to someone who is only going to harm them.
306	I had the pleasure of visiting Old San Juan for this first time in July. The trip was amazing, and one of the highlights were all the cats we encountered. Please let the cats continue to live their best lives in OSJ.
307	Save a Gato and the lovely volunteers have been taking care of all the Old San Juan cats. I was able to adopt my sweet Addie from this organization's cat management of the area. It would do a disservice to the community to destroy the free cat population
308	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am writing in reference to the proposed plan to eradicate the cats from the Paseo de Viejo San Juan.</p> <p>Aside from my personal feelings that lead me to believe that this plan to get rid of the cats is cruel and shortsighted, I have noticed inconsistencies within the Cat Management Plan that has been released to the public.</p> <p>1. The plan highlights that the TNR system is not working, because Save a Gato is not operating within a closed system. By the same logic, if all of the cats local to the Paseo were eliminated, what would stop more from returning? Feral and stray cats are an issue throughout the island and especially in VSJ. Removing the cats, the presence of S.A.G. and the feeding stations are at best a temporary solution to a more chronic problem, and at worst, an inhumane and shortsighted proposal. A bandaid on a wound that needs more serious treatment.</p> <p>2. The plan claims that the presence of the cats is inconsistent with the &quot;cultural</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>landscape” of the Paseo, and that the public often complains about the cats and their waste. How can the cats be at odds with the cultural landscape if the colony has been here since the city's birth? The first cats in PR came on Spanish ships that brought them to VSJ to control the rat population. Additionally, public resistance to this plan shows that the majority of the public has no problem with the cats - in fact, the cats at the Paseo are a charming and integral facet of it's entire image, and a big reason why people visit the area. If the forces of gentrification remove the colony (harming many cats in the process) the area will lose a large part of its charm and intrigue. The cats make the area unique and iconic.</p> <p>3. The plan claims that among the various diseases that cats can carry, rabies is a concern. The USDA has stated that cats are not a significant carrier of rabies in PR. Other cat borne diseases are always a risk with anyone who owns pets, and most people know how to take precautions for their own safety. If the NPS is going to claim that there are so many instances of cat attacks and infections from the Paseo, where is the data?</p> <p>4. The plan states that the cat population has risen since the agreement with S.A.G. in 2005. This may be a fact, but an increase of 80 cats over 17 years is not bad at all, considering what would have happened if S.A.G. did not help control them at all. What happens when the organization is gone and more cats inevitably return to the area? Will the NPS continue to euthanize every single cat that turns up?</p> <p>Instead of taking the approach of total removal (a plan that will not stand the test of time), the NPS could instead choose to invest more heavily in what Save a Gato does for the area. As a S.A.G. volunteer, I see the hard work and sacrifice of the women running the organization. Not enough hands, not enough time, and not enough money, yet they do so much. Imagine the work that could be done if S.A.G. was offered more resources to do their job more effectively. You can look at the rest of the island to see what happens when no one runs TNR to control population, waste, and disease. The Paseo is in much better shape thanks to the work of S.A.G, and many cats lives have been saved.</p> <p>Please consider taking a more considerate, far reaching, future oriented approach when making the plan to manage the cats in VSJ. My recommendation is to offer S.A.G. more resources and funding, and to work more closely with them to manage the concerns presented in the plan.</p>
309	<p>Las decisiones que se tomen relacionadas a seres vivientes deben ser tratadas como lo que son, seres con vida.</p> <p>A los gatos a quienes consideran sacarlos de la comunidad del Viejo San Juan con el propósito de darles una muerte tranquila, me preocupa enormemente como ciudadana responsable de resaltar los valores de una sociedad carente de los mismos.</p> <p>Soy educadora y me cuestiono, ¿cuál es el mensaje que estamos llevando con esta acción? Tal vez reforzar que todo aquello que me incomode lo puedo sacar de mi camino aunque ello implique quitarle la vida a un ser vivo.</p> <p>Los exhorto a buscar soluciones responsables que sirvan de ejemplo para que el impacto sea uno positivo.</p> <p>Es lo más que necesitamos.</p>
310	<p>No estoy de acuerdo eso es un abuso, como vamos a patrocinar tal atrocidad. Con que cara vamos a meter preso a alguien que abuse de un animalito. En Turquía tienen mucho respeto por los gatos. Además a los turistas les encantan</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
311	I have just read the news on the removal of the cats being cared for at the Castillo del Morro in Old San Juan. I feel extremely saddened and disappointed with the plan to remove said cats because they bring joy and happiness to tourists and locals alike. They have become such an integral part of the park that it wouldn't be the same without them. Apart from that, there are organizations and people that care for these cats daily and have invested in them for adoption purposes and quality of life. If they are removed, then what will we have but an empty old cold castle that has seen so much chaos and war? Please do not remove the cats.
312	Detengan el plan de eliminar a los gatos itinerantes del Viejo San Juan. Estos gatos son vacunados, alimentados y cuidados apropiadamente, no son un estorbo para nadie, no son una plaga y no están en ningún peligro ni son un peligro para nadie. En fin no hay ninguna necesidad de eliminarlos y sería un acto inhumano.
313	La unica razon aceptable para remover los gatos de San Juan, debe ser la adopción. Nada nos asegura que el gobierno no lastimara a los gatitos. En muchos países, los gatos son parte del turismo y la misma comunidad se encarga de esterilizar a estos y proveer comida. En vez de hacer planes ridiculos para remover a estos o asesinarlos. Deberían hacer esterilizaciones masivas en todos los pueblos, de forma gratuita. Sin importar si el gato que lleven tiene dueño o es callejero. Ya que muchos gatos callejeros, tenían dueño. Se pueden perder, escapar o ser abandonados. Lo mejor es que cada cierto tiempo se hagan esterilizaciones masivas y adopciones tambien. En otros países hay restaurantes de gatos, gatos sacerdotes con su propio templo, islas llenas de gatos, en algunos países les hacen hasta pequeñas casitas. Puerto Rico es más que capaz de crear un plan para mantener a todos los gatitos, (no solo a los de San Juan) saludables, con comida y esterilizados. Si no se pueden adoptar, podemos incorporarlos más en el turismo como se hace en otros países.
314	The organization Save a Gato are in charge of the cats im the Viejo San Juan. The cats are adorable. Do not aproved this plan to evacuate the cats.
315	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm writing about the proposal to remove the cats from the Paseo. I would suggest partnering with Save-a-Gato to support their efforts to care for the cats and manage the population.</p> <p>I'm a Californian who has been living in Puerto Rico for some time. The cats of Old San Juan and, particularly, the Paseo have been a big part of my experience on the island.</p> <p>Old San Juan is filled with cats. They live at the shore, under cars, in the parks and alcoves, in the homes and businesses. In many ways, it reminds me of Athens, Greece, where wild cats are as much a part of the city as its residents and tourists.</p> <p>I got married in Old San Juan over a decade ago, in a traditional Quaker ceremony, which involves a period silent contemplation. One of the cats of Old San Juan walked through the ceremony at that point, injecting a moment of laughter and reverie. In some ways, it made the cats of Old San Juan a permanent part of my life.</p> <p>When I became aware of Save-a-Gato, I decided to both contribute money, foster cats for adoption, and volunteer. I got to know several people who work with the organization and see the challenges up close. I have to say that Save-a-Gato's team is filled with passionate, hard-working people who care deeply for the welfare of the animals and the enjoyment of visitors to the Paseo.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>When I have spent time at the Paseo, I've seen tourists either ignore the cats' presence or deeply enjoy them, taking photos. They often talk to the Save-a-Gato volunteers, who educate them about the cats, tell them stories about them, and so forth. When I meet tourists on the island or back in the States, a fair amount of them recall the cats as a meaningful part of their experience.</p> <p>In my experience, that cats on the Paseo are either comfortable around humans or they actively avoid people. I have not seen anyone injured or threatened by the cats - and I cannot imagine someone becoming injured unless they are not practicing basic competency around unfamiliar animals.</p> <p>I've read the management plan proposal and it seems like there are two reasonable alternatives being put forward. There are a few reasons I suggest working more closely with Save-a-Gato:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. While it would be possible to remove the majority of cats from the area, there would constantly be a small amount of cats there, unless you were to aggressively remove the cats from the rest of Old San Juan. While those areas may not be in the jurisdiction of the Parks service, tourists seamlessly move between the Paseo and the town, so they will experience the same level of exposure to free ranging cats either way. 2. Without Save-a-Gato's involvement, another solution will be required, otherwise cats that are abandoned will not receive the urgent care and intervention that is needed to rescue them. I have been involved with at least a dozen cats receiving professional medical care at the Old San Juan veterinarian and have witnessed a large number of volunteers providing care and support for hundreds of cats. I would suggest that additional measures are taken to prevent people from abandoning cats is necessary, as that takes up a considerable amount of Save-a-Gato's time and resources. 3. There are opportunities for the cat colony to be featured more prominently as part of Old San Juan's tourist attraction. It is an unusual and "quirky" element that brings some life into the heavily urbanized historic center. Free ranging cats feature prominently in historical attractions in Rome, Athens, and other ancient cities. You can see them wandering around the Coliseum and Acropolis, adding a little whimsy and life to the sites. 4. Many of the issues cited in the proposal with feeding stations, cleanliness, and growing population are related to resource constraints and, in my opinion, a lack of a unified position on the cats. In my experience as a low-level volunteer, there was much frustration expressed that there wasn't a clear way to coordinate or work with the Park management officials. The volunteers make a good effort to keep the space clean and organized, but lack financial resources and/or official support to create feeding stations that could blend into the environment and be more sanitary. Perhaps some of the budget that would need to be allocated to hire a removal agency could be spent supporting Save-a-Gato and working more closely together to find solutions that help beautify the Paseo while supporting the cats. 5. Lastly, as a person who has immigrated to the island, I am mindful that Puerto Rico has a very strong sense of pride in its achievements and culture. While the service the National Park Service provides are valuable all across the country (and I have appreciated your work in many places), it is still viewed as part of the territorial oversight from the United States,

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>which brings with it a higher level of emotional response. Every native Puerto Rican I've met in San Juan knows Save-a-Gato and knows about the cats of Old San Juan. They are excited when I mention that I volunteer with them and often share their memories or experiences with the Paseo cats. I think of the Paseo cats as a part of Puerto Rican culture that has touched my life in a number of ways. It would be a shame for them to disappear.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read my comment. I appreciate it!</p>
316	<p>Please, do not harm this cars. People from San Juan and other towns go to El Viejo San Juan and sterilize them, feed them and take care of them. People actually enjoy seeing those cats in there so why remove them? In other places around the world people leave cats alone, let's not be one of those who kill them without any valid reason. It's a historical place, yes, but cats and people love to be there as one. Why not make another measures to protect those cats? There could be a weekly collection of money to sterilize or people donating food to help them. I don't know if theres cameras but if not there should be. Any people caught abandoning another cat can be held accountable. There's so many things you guys can do before getting rid of them... my grandma passed away not long ago and one thing she loved about that place, were the cats.</p>
317	<p>Street cat management plan: I have known the Old San Juan cat community deeply since 2017 when I joined the "Save a Gato" association to do some community hours for a college project. The action towards Save a Gato was so beautiful that I decided to stay as a volunteer, I am currently serving 6 years as a volunteer. It only takes one day of volunteering to see how well cared for these cats are. They cannot imagine the countless kittens that have been adopted thanks to them. The cat population has decreased, if I personally compare it with the population of 6 years ago when I started volunteering, the difference can be observed. The main problem today is not the current cat population, it is abandonment. Save a Gato does not finish its work because every week people abandon cats in the areas of paseo and the pink house. If you want to help manage the problem, start by providing more help so that Puerto Ricans can sterilize their animals, promote, and help with mass sterilization campaigns and educate how these associations work every day. If you remove these cats "humanely", what will you do with all these cats? Because if you don't realize all the shelters are overcrowded there are already thousands of cats in these shelters. It is going to be a worse health problem if the shelters get more overcrowd. Through this writing I ask you to open your mind and see the complete panorama in Puerto Rico there are worse problems with respect to animal care and the problem is not going to be solved by eliminating a community of cats that is vaccinated, with flea preventives and that they have gone through TNR, and they do not harm anyone.</p>
318	<p>No estoy de acuerdo que se remuevan los gatos de San Juan. No sé indica que van a hacer con los gatos por lo que se presume qué luego de removidos los matarán. Los gatos no son peligrosos. Son alimentados y esterilizados por la comunidad. Los esfuerzos de los funcionarios deben ir dirigidos a preservar la vida de los animales ofreciendo servicios veterinarios, alimentación y albergue permanente para ellos. Expliquen la razón para esa decisión y que pretenden hacer con los gatos.</p>
319	<p>Please please please , remove the cats from old SJ , the situation is very unhygienic and threatens public health.</p>
320	<p>Saludos a todos, resido en el pueblo de San Juan. Desde muy pequeña he visitado las áreas del Viejo San Juan,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>incluyendo el morro. De igual forma, trabajé por dos años en una agencia aledaña al Morro. Desde mi punto de vista, y el de muchas personas que conozco, no es necesario que se hagan cargo de los gatos "realengos". Existe una organización llamada 'Save a Gato' que actualmente cuida de estos felinos. Proveyéndoles alimentación, cuidado y, de igual forma, se encargan de controlar la población de los mismos. Sin la existencia de esta organización, la población fuera mucho mayor a la que se atestigua actualmente. He sido testigo del arduo trabajo que la organización 'Save a Gato' realiza día a día con los felinos con el fin de mantenerlos a un buen cuidado y esterilizados. Por lo que no veo la necesidad de crear el plan que proponen, que no garantiza la seguridad de estos animales y el esfuerzo que realiza esta organización sin fines de lucro podría verse desperdiciada.</p> <p>Por otro lado, estos hermosos animales no le hacen daño a nadie; lo digo por experiencia propia. Hasta a los turistas les encanta. ¿Cuál es la real necesidad de removerlos de estas áreas? ¿Asegurarán que los mismos al ser removidos no sean sacrificados por la incapacidad de los albergues de tenerlos? La seguridad de estos felinos no se garantiza con el plan que proponen, y no somos quién para negarle el derecho a libertad y a la vida a un ser que siente y padece; no son un objeto que puedes sacar o votar y todo queda resuelto. Ellos sienten al igual que todos ustedes. Por esta y muchas razones más, para mí este plan es un rotundo NO. ¿Por qué no se reúnen a idear un plan en conjunto con 'Save a Gato'? Creo que es la mejor opción para que ambas partes, los felinos y ustedes, sean beneficiados.</p> <p>Espero que la lucha de muchos por preservar a los que no tienen voz no sea en vano. Gracias por la atención brindada. ¡Linda tarde!</p>
321	<p>My wife and I frequently walk along the Paseo del Morro. We are always very negatively impressed by the stench of cat urine and feces along some parts of the paseo. Sometimes the smell is so bad that we have to cover our noses while we pick up our walking pace.</p> <p>We understand that these cats need to be treated humanely, but currently, their state and the way they are kept is anything but. We are animal lovers and pet owners since childhood. The way we express our love for animals is by keeping them at home, well kept, fed and supervised.</p> <p>We know some people feel they are doing a very laudable thing by feeding these cats, but to come to Old San Juan a couple of hours a week to feed these animals, and then leave them to their own luck the rest of the week is not the solution. True care of pets and animals in general is a 24/7 job.</p> <p>We therefore, recommend that these cats be removed, in a truly humane way, as soon as possible. The best use of the National Park Service's limited resources is in the preservation of our historical sites for the enjoyment of all.</p>
322	<p>There is NO reason to institute the inhumane control-eliminate protocol for the historic cat colony that lives at Paseo del Morro in Old San Juan. It is already managed by the kind souls at Save a Gato, who for nearly 20 years, has fed these cats, spayed and neutered them, and provided veterinary care, thanks to the help and financial support from the community and from many TOURISTA, who love seeing these gatos roaming the beautiful streets of Viejo San Juan! I urge you to work with the organization to find a better solution to whatever issue raised this possibility.</p>
323	<p>The removal intention for the feral and Save a Gato cats from Old San Juan in Puerto Rico is not supported by most of the cat lovers. Old San Juan parks and their surrounding places</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>are areas with full of human trash, human urine at the historical walls, garbage cans full of food and other more potential health problems more serious rather than the cat's population existence.</p> <p>These cats are TNR's and their removal is not justified. I cannot understand how a cat colony is a human safe and health threatening problem. These cats live at the south part of the Old San Juan and the human traffic there is mostly the cats keepers, the cat lovers like me who support Save a Gato organization and cat lovers tourists.</p> <p>My main concern is what will be the colony destination (kill them??). Here the no-kill shelters are so few and they are full. These cats are part of the Old San Juan history as the Parque of Palomas (Dove Park) is as well.</p> <p>Why now the cats are a problem? Why the concerns can be handled in another way with a good mitigation plan rather than just remove the cats.</p> <p>If this intention proceeds, expect a lot of Leptospirosis cases due to rat and mice presence at Old San Juan and it will impact the tourism, too.</p>
324	<p>Por este medio solicito que NO se remueva la colonia de gatos que actualmente decide en el viejo San Juan. Estos animales no presentan riesgo al lugar, traen más beneficios que daños y sería inhumano que fueran removidos y/o eutanizados. En este país debemos aprender a convivir con los animales que por años llevan en ese lugar (cosa que se ha venido haciendo por años). Removerlos no es la solución.</p>
325	<p>No estoy de acuerdo con eliminar Los Gatos del Paseo del Morro porque ellos tienen derecho a la vida. Son cuidados y alimentados por la comunidad. Ellos no le causan daño a nadie. Porque mejor no hacen un albergue, actividades para adopción, etc. Tantas cosas buenas que se pueden hacer. En países como Turquía Los Gatos de las calles son cuidado y alimentados, no se les hace daño. Estoy totalmente en desacuerdo con la acción que quieren tomar. No sean crueles y desistan de la acción que quieren tomar. El pueblo de Puerto Rico no está de acuerdo. Les pido que sea compasivos con los animales que no tienen la fortuna de tener un hogar y un humano que los ame. Ustedes no tienen ni idea por lo que pasan esos animales. Es mejor que hagan campañas en favor de la adopción y de la empatía a los animales menos afortunados. Esto me preocupa porque si empiezan con Los Gatos terminarían con los coqui es. NO A LA ACCIÓN DE ELIMINAR LIS GATOS DEL PASEO. BASTA YA CON EL MALTRATO A LOS ANIMALES Y NADTA YA CON LA DISCRIMINACION CON LIS GATOS.</p>
326	<p>We love the cats of Viejo San Juan in San Juan, Puerto Rico. They are part of San Juan, part of its streets and culture. They are sterilized, vaccinated and fed by the community and various local organizations like Save A Gato. Killing them would be an inhumane cruel act.</p>
327	<p>No estoy de acuerdo con lo que quieren hacer. Me parece muy inhumano de su parte.</p>
328	<p>Please do not remove cats from Old San Juan this is their home and it has been for many years. Cats are part of the history of the area. They protect us from rats and other pests that harm the wellbeing of the public. These cats do not cause any harm. What should be done is to assist and provide resources (perhaps even better facilities) for these loving (yes loving) creatures and the organizations that take care of them.</p>
329	<p>Please, don't remove Old San Juan cats. They aren't a problem for nobody. They're innocents creatures that deserve have a life like any other animal or human. Don't do any bad to these beautiful cats.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
330	It is really sad to hear that in MY CITY, MY COUNTRY(PUERTO RICO) an unit of USA is planning to get rid of the kitties of Old San Juan. That has been my happy place since I was child. Whenever I go to Old San Juan I have to take a stroll there & enjoy it. They're not harming anybody. Especially any Puertorican.
331	Do not remove the cats!!! They are fixed, loved and valid!!! Sometimes I go there just for the cats. They don't bother at all! Stop the abuse. Rats are going to spread if you take the cats. People there love them and feed them.
332	Please DO NOT get rid of the cat park!!!! It brings tears to my eyes thinking about this wonderful sanctuary being threatened!! The cat park was the highlight of my trip to OSJ that I've visited it multiple times during my short stay there. We loved the mission of the sanctuary and how many lovable cats they have helped so far.
333	I moved to Puerto Rico almost 2 years ago. When we were down here looking for what area we might live in we stayed in an Air BnB in OSJ and were delightfully surprised to see so many cats. I saw a flyer for Save a Gato and after contacting them was able to stop by and help out for a day. I'm a long time volunteer at various centers in various parts of the country and no where else have I seen the compassion and heart that I saw with how OSJ handled their feral cats. 4 months later we officially moved to Old San Juan and I became a weekly volunteer at Save a Gato. I have told everyone how impressed I am with Save a Gato and the National Parks Service in saving these cats. I'm horrified to see you're trying to undo the work they've done and inevitably bring harm to these animals. They bring such joy to visitors. People stop in every week to ask us about the cats and thank us for what we're doing. It's an inspiring relationship that the rest of the country should use as an example. Please reconsider the idea of trying to relocate them. Save a Gato does a meticulous job trying to adopt them out when possible and care for the ones who cannot be homed. Over time they have decreased the population and the current relationship with the cats and the residents (I being on of them) is harmonious. It wouldn't be the same city without them.
334	<p>Es totalmente injusto que se saquen a los felinos del viejo San Juan. No hay razón justificable para hacer semejante atrocidad. Los turistas hacen más daño y no se hace nada al respecto, al igual que los humanos. Es un acto totalmente cruel e injusto. Los gatos le dan vida al viejo San Juan y no molestan a nadie, ademas esa es su casa. Favor parar con este proyecto que no tiene sentido alguno. Enfóquense y preocupense en cosas más importantes que están ocurriendo en el país y dejen a los gatos quietos. No pierdan el tiempo haciendo más daño y trabajen en lo que les toca. ¡Gracias!</p> <p>It is totally unfair that felines are being removed from Old San Juan. There is no justifiable reason to do such an atrocity. Tourists do more damage and nothing is done about it, just like other humans do way more damage as well. It is a totally cruel and unfair act. The cats give life to old San Juan and they don't bother anyone, besides that's their house. Please stop this project that makes no sense. Focus and worry about more important things that are happening in the country and leave the cats alone. Don't waste time doing more damage and work on what you have to do. Thank you!</p>
335	No to the inhumane displacement and cease of cats in Old San Juan. The cats are one of the wonders of Old San Juan. It is a crime to dispose of the cats. There is no need to waste park budget on such a heinous crime of removing cats from their home. The cats are not a nuisance but a blessing.
336	I feed a colony in NYC and the cats can be managed by TNR successfully. I've visited Old San Juan but don't recall seeing cats; I can't imagine they're overwhelming if I completely missed them? Regardless, it's charming to "adopt" a cat while on vacation~ feeding cats in St

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Martin and Greece provided companionship and made me feel at home away from home. Please spare the cats 🐱
337	Con relación a la remoción de la colonia de gatos cuidada por Save a Gato del Viejo San Juan: no hay manera humanitaria de sacar unos gatos de su territorio para llevarlos a eutanazar. Eso es una crueldad. En vez de pensar en removerlos lo que se debe es contar con más recursos para cuidarlos. Me opongo a que se atente contra los gatitos del Paseo del Morro y el Viejo San Juan. Espero que se pueda llegar a un acuerdo que beneficie a los nobles felinos que no tienen voz.
338	<p>Why do you want to kill sterilized, vaxed and community fed cats? Do your agency undettand ehat TNR is? If you don't call your friends in ISRAEL. There is the goverment who TNR, vax, evaluate the feral cats. Those cats keep the city free of rats. As it was explained to me &quot; those cats have a job to do keeping Jerusalem free of rats and other. But if is not enough you could learn to respect the feral cats as in Turkey or Dubai. USA and PR are far behind in approaching feral animals problems. Your first choice is always to kill. Time to change the approach and do things diiferently. All life must be respected. May be that is the solution for all the violence we suffer.</p> <p>Is National Park going to reinburst the community for their economic investment in Old SJ Cat Colony? If not, Stay Away from killing kittens. Use your money to clean and disinfect the humane urine repugnant odor from la Garita del Diablo.</p>
339	<p>Why do you want to kill sterilized, vaxed and community fed cats? Do your agency undettand ehat TNR is? If you don't call your friends in ISRAEL. There is the goverment who TNR, vax, evaluate the feral cats. Those cats keep the city free of rats. As it was explained to me &quot; those cats have a job to do keeping Jerusalem free of rats and other. But if is not enough you could learn to respect the feral cats as in Turkey or Dubai. USA and PR are far behind in approaching feral animals problems. Your first choice is always to kill. Time to change the approach and do things diiferently. All life must be respected. May be that is the solution for all the violence we suffer.</p> <p>Is National Park going to reinburst the community for their economic investment in Old SJ Cat Colony? If not, Stay Away from killing kittens. Use your money to clean and disinfect the humane urine repugnant odor from la Garita del Diablo.</p>
340	Cuando visito el Viejo San Juan, una de las cosas que más disfruto es interactuar con los gatos que están allí. Soy testigo de cómo la organización Save a Gato ha aportado de gran manera a controlar las población de gatos y de velar por su seguridad y bienestar. Como maestra he tenido la oportunidad de aportar junto con mis estudiantes artículos para el cuidado de los mismos a través de gestiones comunitarias. Sería una pena muy grande que se tomaran decisiones arbitrarias que pusieran en riesgo a tantos animales indefensos y que casi se han convertido enun atractivo turístico de esa área.
341	<p>Don't remove the cats. Those cats are well taken care of and are not a threat to the environment.</p> <p>People around the world know these cats.</p>
342	We want that the cat that live in the Morro area stay there. They keep the area free of mice and other plagues. The people in San Juan love the cat. Save cats. They are useful to the environment
343	The cat colonies in old San Juan are a statement of the historic place. They have been controlled through organizations like Save a Sato that focuses on TNR and vaccination for all the cats. In addition, this historic part of cats has been featured in books, short stories and news about old san juan and its history. The animals should be left alone in their environment

Corr ID	Correspondence
	where they belong and don't bother anyone. All the money to move them should be used to produce TNRs for the rest of the cats that are yet to be neutered/spared.
344	It is very well known in the community that these cats are sterilized and fed by the community. In Puerto Rico we do not have the "american" tradition of killing living beings nor do we believe in the death penalty. Respect our culture! Colonizers!
345	Do not remove the cats they don't harm anybody and they keep the area without rats and roaches infestation. They are loved by the people who visit Old San Juan. They are well taken care of by Save a Gato something that the Government don't do!
346	This is an absurd action. The cats can be taken to foster care.
347	Those cats are part of Old San Juan. They are spayed, neutered and care for by the residents and rescue organizations. Other countries take care of their street animals with compassion. Be like those countries.
348	I am saddened and disappointed to hear of the poor planning of this department. Rehoming feral cats is a plan for failure. Yes, some cats would adjust well but many many more would not. This proposed plan will be a death sentence to far too many of the cats. Not to mention the fact that over 90% of Puerto Rico's shelter animals are euthanized. I won't go into the history of the cats, the eye sores of the city, or the need for basic compassion and empathy. I will say that the most realistic and human way to form a realistic plan for the cat population is to do so in conjunction with animal welfare groups such as Save-a-gato.
349	<p>No maten a los gatos. Ustedes y nadie tiene el derecho a elegir que seres vivientes pueden estar o cuales no.</p> <p>Esto es algo criminal y sin moral. Me indigna como ven a los animales como objetos y no como los seres vivientes que son que desde los siglos y siglos han ayudado a los humanos a combatir las plagas como las ratas del viejo San Juan. Que va a ser lo próximo? Erradir a los coquies porque hacen mucho ruido? Nosotros estamos compartiendo nuestro planeta con el resto de las especies y ellos tienen el derecho de tener vidas plenas y buenas al igual que nosotros. Al igual que es un crimen maltratar animales y matarlos, es un crimen masacrar gatos y perros y más viniendo de ustedes el National Park Service. Es la cosa más cruel e inmoral que he visto. Puerto Rico siempre dando tres pasos hacia atrás en vez de avanzar. Si supieran de todos los turistas que vienen y visitan y adoptan gatos de Save a Gato. Como los gatitos embellezcan such a bleak city. Como los gatos en Turquía que son amados y respetados, están más adelantados que nosotros como sociedad solo por la moral. Al igual que todos los países donde se les quieren y respetan.</p> <p>Ya mismo empiezan a sacar a los indigentes como si fueran cosas y no personas. Shame on you National Park Service. DON'T TOUCH THE CATS. Son parte de nuestra capital y dañarlos promueve la crueldad y violencia en contra de los animales que no se pueden defender así mismos!!!</p>
350	<p>Dear Puerto Rico government:</p> <p>I recently visited San Juan. I saw some beautiful cats on my walks, and that was one of my favorite things about my trip. I fell in love with one little cat in particular, and went looking the next day to see her again. This was such a joyous part of experiencing San Juan. Please don't change this life the cats have there. They mean so much to the community and to those who visit. Save a Gato has done such tremendous work to care for the cats. I think they are wonderful and it's such a blessing. Leave the cats of Puerto Rico alone, please!</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Sincerely,
351	Either let these cats stay or actually care for them and get them into safe homes.
352	<p>Our Vacation visit to San Juan was not complete without walking the ocean trail to see the beautiful cat inhabitants. My feeling was that San Juan was a compassionate place and valued each life. I hope you continue to respect and hopefully support the beautiful felines with Save AGato. They are what makes your city special. Those lives they support are each loved and important.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
353	<p>Don't kill the cats in San Juan. They are sterilized.</p> <p>Tomen acción con otras cosas que están llevando a PR a la ruina como lo es el gobierno. Dejen a los pobres gatos en paz.</p>
354	<p>Porque matarlos? Hace años estos indefensos gatos conviven ahí y nadie se quejó, porque ahora? Que mucho tenemos que aprender de otras culturas, obviamente son civilizados. Turquía, Japón, Italia entre otros, donde Los Gatos son parte de la cultura y los respetan y cuidan. Parece que no saben que aquí en PR está la ley 154 2008 que cuida y protege a los animales. No los maten por favor 😊</p>
355	It is important to me that the cats at the park are not removed.
356	<p>No creo justo matar I quitarle la vida a todos estos pobres gatos ya que eliman toda plaga de Ratas y cucarachas en San Juan ellos son indefenso y no hacen daño alguno al contrario ayudan ya que en el vino San Juan hay muchos restaurantes y no tienen el aceo que se implica la mayoría están esterilizados me pregunto ahora no los quieren pero como llegaron ahí obviamente algún despiadado ser humano lo abandonó somos el ser más malo del mundo matamos sin compasión somos una destrucción no hagan eso No MATEMOS LOS ANIMALITOS QUE NO SE PUEDEN DEFENDER</p>
357	<p>Please don't evict the cats. The locals there love them, and it's only clueless rich gentrifiers coming in and assuming they're a problem, when they're not now and never have been. I have so many friends who love hanging out with the cats and feeding them and it brings a lot of joy and character to the city.</p>
358	<p>To seriously consider this absurd act is cruel and inhumane. I really thought that we had progressed past this kind of treatment of life in a 21st century democracy, but this proves otherwise. I'd strongly suggest you RECONSIDER THIS cruelty. This is a part of the charm of San Juan; the cats are what people love. Aside from Save a Gato, I know of MANY LOCALS also helping these cats. The PEOPLE OF SAN JUAN ARE SPEAKING. PLEASE LISTEN TO THEM. The government needs to work FOR the public, not AGAINST THEM. This is the POINT of a democracy. People are NOT favourable to this inhumane treatment. Aside from the PEOPLE who LOVE the cats, Save a Gato has made invaluable contributions to help and keep safe the cats of Viejo San Juan. You are in government to respect the peoples choices: please try to respect peoples voice. Please allow this to be a democratic process. You are hurting a community you seek to help.</p>
359	<p>Please leave the cats in paseo del marro of old San Juan as they are. They add to the experience and it would be devastating if they were to be euthanized. Please protect these sweet creatures. They are loved.</p>
360	<p>I do not think this is a logical thing to do. You see a group of stray cats minding their own business. People find them cute. They don't bother anyone. They make people happy because they get to see the cuteness, and the first thing that comes to your minds is &quot;Oh, I have</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>an idea! Let's remove them from the streets and euthanize them!&quot;</p> <p>There's like 29323820 worse things in the world and people think the smell of cat poop on the streets is the problem? Why are you programmed to remove any animal you see on the streets? The streets and the world is are also for animals. They are not a nuisance. Let them live.</p> <p>I was born in Puerto Rico. I know everything about those cats, and they are like family to the residents of Old San Juan. They are fed by them, and Save a Gato literally takes care of them daily. I know because I used to volunteer for them. I can happily answer any questions you have regarding that.</p>
361	<p>I am fully against the removal of the cats. One, the cats are the best remedy to be rat, roach free without using chemicals and putting in danger the people. Two, the cats are not dangerous to people they don't attack them they just simply ran away if they don't want to be petted. Three, the cats lives, I am against euthanasia and putting them in the animal shelter where they will be killed. And four, the cats are part of the Old San Juan community and is a tourist attraction on it's own. This is the worst decision you could make instead of removing the cats, address the areas for the cats to eat and do their necessities and the cats will be healthier which means a healthier community.</p>
362	<p>Me encuentronen contra del proyecto para remover la comunidad de gatos. No crean problemas alli y los residentes se encargan de cuidarlos desde hace año. El remover esta poblacion va a traer problemas casi inmediatos. El aumento de ratas va a ser monumental y comenzaria una plaga mayor y con peores efectos (ya visto en Europa). Son parte de la red trofica de la zona y no le hacen daño a nadie</p>
363	<p>Don't kill cats</p>
364	<p>Los gatos son una de las partes por lo cual visito el Morro y seria un error remover los gatos muchos turistas le encanta caminar y ver los gatitos</p>
365	<p>Los gatos son necesarios para el VSJ!!! No los saquen!!!</p>
366	<p>No harm better come to these cats. I send financial donations from New York. They are taken care of and adopted to loving families. Hope you work with SAVE A GATO organization to save these beautiful cats!</p>
367	<p>Esto es algo q está demás. Quienes alimentan y esterilizan a esos animales son los mismos residentes del viejo San Juan. El gobierno no pone un peso en eso. No hacen daño. Por Dios q se preocupen por cosas más importantes q por animales q no le Hacen daño a nadie. Por eso es q estamos como estamos, gastando energías en cosas q no componen nada a este país.</p>
368	<p>Estudio y trabajo en san juan, mi vida es en san juan. Los gatos son parte de la comunidad, ellos no pueden defenderse solos, es nuestra responsabilidad armonizar y convivir con ellos. Bajo ninguna circunstancias matarlos es una opción, es increíble que tan siquiera se traiga a la conversación, a donde va a llegar la falta de humanidad, se nos olvidan las cosas básicas, como que la naturaleza es nuestra responsabilidad y asesinar porque te provoca mal olor o te raspa el carro es lo mas bajo que puede caer esta sociedad.</p>
369	<p>Not for the cats to take away. They should only do a campaign for sterilization. They do not commit any crime, they only look for food, water and a place to shelter. NO TO ANIMAL ABUSE.</p>
370	<p>Killing has never been a solution. No matter if it is an human or an animay Spay and Neuter is a proven solution and you should spend effort in helping not in killing.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
371	I believe these animals deserve to live in peace in the wild. Unless they are a danger in any way, they should roam free.
372	<p>Para nosotros es muy importante conocer los resultados de los comentarios y la retroalimentación de la ciudadanía en este proceso de consulta que entendemos es uno adecuado y certero.</p> <p>La mayor preocupación gira en torno a el destino y/o acción a tomar una vez se capturen.</p> <p>Una idea o sugerencia es que a cada gato se le haga una prueba de sida felino, leucemia y otras condiciones de salud que comprometen a otros felinos y tomar una decision medica y compasiva.</p> <p>En el caso de aquellos felinos que puedan ser adoptables hacer lo propio y los ferales que estén en buen estado de salud aseguranos que estén esterilizados y buscar santuarios de gatos en EU a través de organizaciones como HSUS y enviarlos.</p> <p>Queremos participar de las reuniones en particular la del 3 de noviembre hay que registrarse? Donde?</p>
373	<p>San Juan's cats and in the complete island: Spay and neuter is a proven solution. To kill a living being IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. We, animal rescuers, are spaying, neutering, vaccinating and feeding cats in San Juan and throughout the island with our money, effort, time and dedication. You can help: Provide houses and/or premises so that we can relocate cats from public areas. Remember: To kill a living being IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. Cats are part of maintaining balance in ecosystems.</p>
374	<p>As a long time resident of San Juan, I oppose the removal of the cats. Primarily because of the rodent infestation that will ensue if you remove the cats. Cats are predators of vermin. Sure it smells like cat urine in some places, but that is better than rodent urine and feces. Rodents are know disease vectors unlike felines. Do not remove nor euthanize the Old San Juan cat population. Thank you</p>
375	<p>Espero que hagan algo bueno con esos gatitos. Son animales y NO merecen nada más que esterilización, amor y comprensión. Ellos NO tienen culpa de reproducirse tan rápido.</p>
376	<p>I don't support the removal or euthanasia of the cats in the San Juan Morro area. I have always supported the Save a Gato non profit as they are constantly spaying and neutering the cats. The population grows because some people are irresponsible and leave their unwanted cats there for the organization to take care of them, and they do, eventually. All the while, these cats are controlling the population of rats, which would be a bigger problem. They also become a pleasant site to the walkers, like myself, who begin to recognize each one</p>
377	<p>AVANCE O RETROCESO</p> <p>Es de todos conocidos que para mantener un balance ecologico en la Tierra, los animales son tan imp como los humanos y donde cada organismo cuenta con un espacio que contribuye a su ecosistema. Las Naciones Unidas reconociendo la importancia de esa dinamica ha contribuido con ideas basicas de como los animales son parte esencial de nuestro sistema. Su Declaracion de los Derechos de los Animales estipula que: " TODOS LOS ANIMALES NACEN IGUALES ANTE LA VIDA Y TIENEN LOS MISMOS DERECHOS ANTE LA EXISTENCIA Y AL RESPETO". Continua su</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>exposicion al postular que " EL SER HUMANO NO PUEDE ATRIBUIRSE EL DERECHO A EXTERMINARLOS".</p> <p>Por tal razon, los estados y los territorios de Norte America han creado leyes que atemperan estos postulados para la proteccion de sus animales. PR no se ha quedado atras y crea la Ley 154 de 2008 para el Bienestar y Proteccion Animal. Esta estipula que el "Siglo 21 se encuentra en un cambio a la percepcion y trato hacia los animales". Bajo esa misma percepcion de bienestar y proteccion animal en la Isla desde hacen decadas han surgido una cantidad de rescatistas y organizaciones de bienestar animal. Muchos de los rescatistas nos encargamos de esterilizar mayormente gatos y perros para adopcion y hasta traslados a distintos estados de la nacion para su efectiva adopcion.</p> <p>Por tal motivo, nos sorprendio el Plan propuesto por el National Park Service, que de lleno no contempla estos principios basicamente universales, descansando solo sobre unos ambiguos supuestos. Tampoco contempla los ciclos de crecimiento en poblaciones en la Zoologia, que es un fenomeno donde la poblacion aumenta y se reduce en un periodo de tiempo. Las poblaciones crecen o se contraen por cambios naturales. En el caso de PR es bien documentado el abandono de animales luego de huracanes, de migracion de habitantes, y de pandemias.</p> <p>Los rescatistas hemos podido experimentar la tendencia en abandonos de gatos y perros, aumentando asi la poblacion de las colonias que atendemos luego de estos sucesos en la Isla. Los periodicos locales tambien publican temas sobre estos abandonos. Los gatitos del Viejo San Juan(VSJ) no han sido la excepcion.</p> <p>No conocemos el acuerdo llegado con Save a Gato(SAG) ni a quienes pertenecen los terrenos del area donde estan ubicados los comederos. Si nos parece una buen practica de responsabilidad social el acuerdo. Ademas, el site de SAG refleja opiniones positivas de turistas que han visitado el VSJ y que han interactuado con los gatos de distintas maneras, reflejando sus excelentes practicas.</p> <p>Pero no debemos olvidarnos de que esos gatos cuentan con derechos bajo los postulados de las Naciones Unidas y la Ley 154 de Bienestar Animal en PR. El parque ahora propone un retroceso al obviar estas protecciones para darle su importancia a la Agencia por algunos supuestos ambiguos. Toma en sus manos la decision mas drastica que existe al sugerir la remocion "por alguna organizacion" y terminacion de la vida de inteligentes y sensibles seres que han hecho del</p> <p>2</p> <p>VSJ su hogar sin considerar sus derechos ni su bienestar. Este tipo de accion se ha considerado ser retrocesos que afectan la credibilidad y el turismo de ser una isla con sensibilidad hacia los animales y crea dudas de contar con buenas practicas de comercio. Sugerimos adelantar y continuar con el acuerdo de Responsabilidad Social con SAG y sus ciclos de vida sin afectar la poblacion de gatitos. Asi mismo, explorar otras alternativas que redunden en el bienestar de estos animalitos indefensos. Considerar decisiones de vanguardia mundial como los utilizados por el Hermitage Museum, la isla japonesa de gatos, y el amor y consideracion a los animales que utilizan en Turquia. Esto redundara en un continuo avance de la isla hacia el turismo de clase mundial.</p> <p>"La grandeza de una nacion y su progreso moral se caracteriza por la forma en que trata a sus animales". Mahamma Ghandi</p> <p>En San Juan de Puerto Rico, hoy de 27 de octubre del 2022</p> <p>Sinceramente,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
378	Those cats do not represent danger to people. In fact they have been part of San Juan History since the Spaniards came to the San Juan (it is registered in our history). People is not naive to think that they will not be harmed. They will be killed by your organization, people is not that naive, we know that is your plan. You have bot even provided a detailed plan of what will be done to them. Not a humanitarian treatment to other living species. The cats have never bothered in San Juan. A plan considering sterilization in conjunction with government and private organizations that protect animals is a suggestion to be considered. But killing them is unacceptable.
379	Please support Save a Gato instead of doing this plan to remove cats. Cats are important to old san juan and its culture.
380	<p>Att.: Paseo cats.</p> <p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>The cat colony of Old San Juan is a treasure. The cats are part of the charm of Old San Juan. They are not a threat. In fact, the cats help control the rat population in Old San Juan.</p> <p>For the reasons mentioned above I am asking you to please, let the cat colony stay in Old San Juan.</p> <p>Thank you in advance.</p> <p>Regards,</p>
381	Después de tanto años, ahora los gatos molestan? Me pregunto... Las palomas, no hacen daño y apestan? Lo malo es que no miden con la misma vara. Por lo menos los gatos cazan. Dejenlos tranquilos y esos que están quejándose ayuden a esterilizar o mejor adopten uno.
382	LOS GATOS NO HACEN NADA EN SAN JUAN!! No sacan a las ratas del gobierno que tanto nos han chabado pero quieren matar los gatos q son parte de nuestro turismo y son super friendly? No hacen nada de sentido! Esto es inhumano y es maltrato de animales por q por sus propios cojones de hacer construcción en esa area quieren literalmente matar gatos q llevan en esa area mas tiempo q algunos de nosotros? En verdad q ustedes son unos ridiculos, mediocres y maltratantes!
383	Hello SAJU, Cats have been used in port cities thru history. Is not San Juan a port? As for been an invasive species that is also debatable. Please reconsider removing the cats from El paseo. Thanks.
384	<p>I am a native. For 30 years lived in the island of Puerto Rico and the best thing ever was to visit el Morro de San Juan and see the cats freely walking around. I felt proud that somewhere in the island the government would promote animals rights and allow them to be part of the community. These cats also attract the tourist that are animal lovers!!! The fact that they are allowed to be free in the community speaks/represents well the island in terms of their values.</p> <p>Instead of investing time and energy in a project like this one, that promotes the elimination of innocent cats, the government should invest time, energy, and resources to bring back again the SPAYATHON and provide support to all individuals that are rescuers, rescue organizations, and promote non-kill shelters. Government should work towards bettering animals lives and rights in Puerto Rico.</p> <p>Totally against of eliminating and removing these cats from the colony and community!</p>

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	<p>Do more to help the rescue organizations, help better animals lives, bring back Spayathon, and stop promoting projects like these that makes thousands of citizens and tourist feel totally ashamed!!!</p> <p>LEAVE THESE CATS FREELY IN THE COLONY OF EL MORRO SAN JUAN! LET SAVE A GATO CONTINUE TO CARE FOR THESE INNOCENT LIVES! PROVIDE YOUR SUPPORT INSTEAD OF ELIMINATING THESE ANIMALS!!</p> <p>DO BETTER PUERTO RICO!!!! AND MAKE OTHERS PROUD OF THE GOOD YOU CAN DO!!</p>
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386	<p>For years the cat community have been living side by side with the senior residents of Old San Juan, besides providing the residents some company and enjoying they play a big role in the ecosystem by eradicating all species of vermin that can be harmful for human beings. Eliminating the primary source of protection from these pests can cause spreading of multiple diseases all around San Juan that is the most highly populated area in all Puerto Rico. Please listen to the people that protect these felines.</p>
387	<p>Estamos en contra de eutanasia a los gatos de san juan es la forma más inhumano que se puede ver , porque si tanto le molestan la creación de Dios porq no le donan a la fundación un terreno ustedes no tiene derecho de matar nadie tiene derechos de matar además este 🌐 es primero de los animales nosotros lo humanos invadimos.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Noo a la eutanasia
388	I oppose the current plan to remove the Gatos de San Juan. They have been well cared for by the nonprofit organization and provide free pest removal (rats and mice), not to mention the international attention they receive from visitors to Old San Juan. They are a highlight for many people visiting the city and many feel that Old San Juan would not be the same without them. Their removal, let along leaving them to the removal company to dispose of, is inhumane and flies in the face of the care and protection Puerto Ricans give to the stray animal populations. For the continued benefit of everyone who connects with the gatos and for the health and safety of the gatos, please halt this action and work to find a more peaceful and beneficial solution. Respectfully submitted.
389	Salvemos a los gatos!
390	I do not support the Old San Juan's cats initiative. Those cats don't do any harm and they are in good care of Save a Sato. Please leave those cats alone!
391	Buenas tardes, considero que la matanza que planean hacer con los gatos del viejo san juan es un acto inhumano. Considero que deberían hacer campañas de esterilización para disminuir el aumento de población y proveer un espacio donde estos puedan recibir alimentos y cuidados
392	NO remuevan/asesinen a los gatos del viejo San Juan. Do not remove or kill the Cat of Viejo San Juan.
393	It would be of great appreciation to let the cats living in San Juan to be left alone, as that is their home. They have been roaming the streets for years with little to no complain from the people who visit or live there as well. These cats are all taken care of, they have been spayed, vaccinated and are of no harm to others, if anything they help maintain the streets clean of pests, like rats and cockroaches who leave behind and transmit multiple diseases. They are part of the community and are well loved and cared for by the people around and organizations that lookout for their well-being on the regular and make sure that they are properly taken care of. It's nonsense to consider taking them out of their home with no valid reason. They are not useless or bothersome. Please take in great consideration that if you remove these cats from their home, you will have the whole community of San Juan very much disappointed and sad with such action. The people of San Juan are animal lovers and these cats make no exception, they are a lovely companions to be around to. Hopefully we can agree and discard the possible decision of taking them away. Thank you.
394	To whom it may concern, The action of TNR (trap, neuter and release) really does work. If it wasn't for such organizations and independent rescuers there would be a bigger problem of stray animals on our streets. I've lived my whole life on the island and there has been a huge improvement on our island thanks to TNR. Also having sterilized cats in the area of San Juan also reduces tremendously the population of rats since San Juan is a very populated city. If it wasn't for the cats, imagine rats running up and down the streets! Also lots of these organizations adopt them out. Extermination is not the solution, also if people find out that they are picking cats up, more people will abandoned their pets since they will think every so often they will be picked up... like what happened at Mar Chiquita beach in Vega Baja. People would abandoned on purpose since they knew the municipality would pick up the animals. We have to educate, TNR lowers populations tremendously. Sincerely,
395	Los animales son seres vivos, los cuales hay que respetar y valorar. He ido múltiples ocasiones a San Juan y siempre hay organizaciones y las mismas personas les brindan comida y agua. Por alguna razón se encuentran en el área. No hay porque realizar actos como

Corr ID	Correspondence
	eliminación de los animales, ya que son parte de la comunidad de San Juan. Los gatos son excelentes cazadores y mantienen el área limpia de plagas. Espero que puedan analizar nuevamente la decisión y tomar la correcta.
396	Por favor 🙏 les pido con el corazón en la mano no maten los gatitos que sé encuentran, en el área del viejo san juan. Ellos son seres vivientes no Merecen eso 🙏 no le hacen daño a nadie tienen sus derechos demostremos que podemos ser mejores seres humanos. Esto me destruye completamente por favor 🙏
397	The cats on the park should be allow to continue living there as they have been for all these years. They are not a danger to locals or tourists. They is already an organization that takes care of these cats and ensures they are sterilized, vaccinated and well feed.
398	I do not approve your plan to eliminate feral cats from El Morro property. Killing the animals there is cruel and not justified. Trap, Neuter and Release is the only viable alternative.
399	NO MATEN LOS GATOS ELLOS SON UNA ATRACCION Y PARTE MUY IMPORTANTE DEL MORRO ESTAN ESTERILIZADOS, VACUNADOS Sacarlos de SanJuan es matarlos
400	Please do not kill the poor cats in old San Juan PR, there are other ways to address any issues the cats may cause..
401	Dear Sirs, there is no need to take extreme action against these cats. I am informed that they are neutered and that there are volunteers that bring them food. In a few year their number will decrease. I live in Rome, Italy and we have cats living in the ruins of the ancient Rome. They too are neutered and fed by volunteers. We make calendars with roman cats in the ruins of 2000 years ago! I believe that the only important and needed part is to support the neutering of any new cat that could be added to the colonies. Please don't kill any cat, they are innocent. They will decrease in number in a few years. Thank you for reading my comment.
402	How about instead of using any funds you plan on using to eliminate or remove the cats that live there. You instead use the funds to help the organization that is currently caring for the cats to pay for spay/neuter appointments and other Vet care costs. So the cats will be healthy, stop procreateing, which in turn reduces the colony size. Eliminating these animals will create a vacuum effect, new cats will move in to replace the ones you remove. This is their home and these animals are actually doing a service by keeping the rat, green iguana (invasive species) and snake populations in check.
403	Las RATAS comen de la comida que le dejan a los gatos. Hace 15 años atrás comencé el camino desde La Princesa y lo que vi me horrorizó. Entre las piedras las RATAS velan a los gatos y cuando se va el gato sale la RATA a comer lo que quedó. Algunos comentan que habrá problema de ratas si eliminan los gatos pero no es así. Si le dan comida a los gatos no van a pasar el trabajo de cazar. Y encima están alimentando ambas poblaciones la de gatos y la de RATAS. Todavía los gatos tienen sus instintos - no hay que darles comida. Dejen que la NATURALEZA siga su curso. Lo de esterilizar es bueno pero lo de alimentarlos NO. Por otro lado - PR debe deshacerse de las gallinas de palo ya que asustan y afectan los terrenos al hacer cuevas. Y el paseo - cuando vi las RATAS comiendo la comida que le dejan a los gatos - no pude seguir el paseo.

Corr ID	Correspondence
404	<p>Por favor detengan ese proyecto que atenta contra los Gatos del viejo Sanjuan Por favor ya las entidades ocupándose de q estén sano esterilizados Y es como Turquía Por favor emulen lo correcto convivir con los animales hbau derecho también a la vida,por favor hay q enseñar a la sociedad a buscar la solución esterilizando ,adoptando y tener animales sanos aunq estén en la calle como lo han hechos países de otro continente donde es hermoso ver q respetan al animalito. Por favor ya PR puede dar el comienzo a un ejemplo de traer esta cultura de respeto a los animales Ellos no hacen daño en el viejo San Juan yo diría q ya hasta los turistas les escanea Por favor ayuden a que la opción no es matar eliminar estiguir matando sacándolo Porque ellos son parte de la creación</p> <p>Que van hacer ? Matar también las palomas?</p>
405	<p>Hola tengo 23 años y soy residente de Puerto Rico por favor les pido con todo mi corazón que no remuevan ni eliminen y no le hagan daño a los gatos del Viejo San Juan ellos no molestan a nadie no le hacen ningún tipo de daño a nadie y si hacen sus necesidades ellos mismos la tapan,eliminan ratones y otros tipos de plagas! Ellos deberían ser libres tal y como están en su hábitat natural yo pienso que deberían de encargarse en otros asuntos del Viejo San Juan ya que es un lugar que tiene mucha historia importante!!y merece ser cuidado!!</p>
406	<p>I am a San Juan resident for over 40 years. During my time here, I have fought and advocated for animal rights. They need a voice. The cats of OSJ are not an eyesore; to the contrary, they are a sight for sore eyes. They are well cared for. I have been to the park and Paseo many times; there is no smell. The tourists LOVE the cats and take photos of them. I am well connected with animal rights organizations in the States. If this proposal to eliminate/euthanize these cats leaks out, I guarantee you that there will be a public uprising which will involve and affect tourism to our island. I'm sure PR does not wish to be labeled as animal abusers and cat killers. These animals have been there for years. They are sterilized, being fed and cared for. Since they are no longer reproducing, they will die off naturally, as they should. Eliminating any of these cats will trigger a reaction that you were not prepared for.</p>
407	<p>cats are the cleanest of animals. The moment you remove them, you invite RATS and de cease.</p>
408	<p>I am appalled at your plan to remove the cats from old San Juan. The cats have been there for years. They are spayed/neutered and cared for.</p> <p>I don't understand why they are suddenly a problem. Who came up with this plan? I would like to reach out to that person directly and provide multiple studies and research showing how sterilized community cats are beneficial!</p> <p>Please leave them alone! Thank you,</p>
409	<p>Spay and neuter don't kill them. There are many shelters on mainland to take them to and put for adoption.</p>
410	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>It's is incomprensible that the solution a problem that doesn't exist is to kills Animals that pertain to this area and have been protected by citizens whom With their own money have sterilized them.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>They are NO kittens ever being born.</p> <p>It is so cruel so inhumane that killing these animals is even a choice.</p> <p>I lived in Miami Beach Florida for years and the beaches and parks have stray cats colonels PROTECTED by the city.</p> <p>Why is it that the choice for Puerto Rico is different?</p> <p>Killing these creatures serves no purpose.</p> <p>The only way that is humane and accepted is to TNR.</p> <p>Cities older than San Juan take pride in their feline population.</p> <p>The cats of OSJ BELONG THERE.</p> <p>Your solution to fix a problem that downs exist is unacceptable and I do not support it.</p> <p>I am a citizen of San Juan and I do not support your plan.</p>
411	<p>Gentlemen: Cats have been in this world longer than the human race. In the 1500's cats were brought here by our conquerors and traders from the Old World. Rats were common in our Island and at a point, they became a nuisance. At the time men thought that bringing cats here would help eradicate the rat population, which it did. For many centuries we have control these beings called animals thinking that humans are superior than any other living thing on this Planet. We have eradicated thousands of species from this place we call our HOME. But, Hello? this is their home too. They were here long before we appeared on Planet Earth. What gives us the right to decide who lives or dies. We have moved them from their environment, killed them, used them, eat them, and we call ourselves "Human" Beings? For years on end, we have cared for these cats. There are different groups and associations now, but when I started rescuing back in the 50's and 60's, I had to studied and worked, so that I could feed the hundred of dogs in the UPR of Puerto Rico in Rio Piedras when I was there in College. I had no one to help me financially so I had to work to do the job the government was suppose to be doing. There were no cell phones, no web and people were very narrow minded, and thought they had no right to exist. It was easier for the government to eradicate the "problem" and just get rid of them, pretty much like they are trying to do now with the cats from San Juan. What or who gives you that right? This organization has taken the responsibility to feed them, get them vaccinated and spayed. Not only that but those who are adoption ready, use every instrument at hand to get them adopted. Yes, there's a group that are not adoptable for several reasons, so they live peacefully there, we're they are fed, taken care of and are save. The whole idea behind the TNR Program (Trap-Neuter-Release), is to care for them and stop overpopulation and help them live, under the circumstances, a better life.</p> <p>We are millions who believe that we reside on this Planet, and since this is our ONLY home, we need to respect and care for all beings. Maybe in the process, we might learn to become more humane and have more empathy toward all living beings.</p> <p>I totally oppose the "moving" of the cats of San Juan. Nature doesn't need us; we need Nature or we'll become extinct just like the Dinosaurs.</p>

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417	<p>The National Park Service isn't providing any details concerning this plan. "Humanely remove" is an extremely vague and worrisome phrase. I don't believe there is such an option unless thousands of dollars are invested to create a spacious, no-kill sanctuary; and further thousands to maintain it in perpetuity.</p> <p>Cats are part of Old San Juan, even if the cats from the park territory are removed, there are still hundreds of cats that will move around and end up on El Morro grounds. The investment of money and resources could be better used to assist the existing program, Save A Gato. This program is effective in controlling the population, they also feed them, provide medical attention, and facilitate adoptions. In an open system however, there are more cats coming in, that is unfortunate but it has to do with a horrible lack of empathy, responsibility, and humanity in our society. It has nothing to do with the program's effectiveness. We need education to keep abandonment and mistreatment from happening, and the National Park Service could play a huge part in that, instead of just "removing" our precious and iconic cats and further propagating the view that cats are pests, something to get rid of. It is extremely tiring to witness prejudice against cats, they deserve to stay in their home. Cats are hunters and while they will hunt whether or not they are fed, it is clear that feeding them keeps them happy and cared for as they mostly hunt rodents, which would actually be a problem for the public health of the city.</p> <p>I personally feed the cats near El Morro and all I have seen have their clipped ears, meaning they are spayed or neutered. Their feeding stations are clean and the cats look cared for and happy. The tourists and locals I have interacted with are also happy to see them and know they are being fed. I have never heard a negative comment toward the state of the Park pertaining to the presence of animals. Our cats are famous and are the favorite part of tourists and locals alike. Animal lovers everywhere will not stand for this traumatic and possibly painful "removal" of our four-legged residents.</p> <p>You can tell a lot about a society by the way they treat their most vulnerable residents, including children, the elderly, and animals. He who is capable of hurting an animal is capable of hurting another innocent being like a child, etc.</p> <p>Our happy cats are indicators of a kind society and there is no need to evict them from the only home they've ever known.</p>
418	<p>The National Park Service isn't providing any details concerning this plan. "Humanely remove" is an extremely vague and worrisome phrase. I don't believe there is such an option unless thousands of dollars are invested to create a spacious, no-kill sanctuary; and further thousands to maintain it in perpetuity.</p> <p>Cats are part of Old San Juan, even if the cats from the park territory are removed, there are still hundreds of cats that will move around and end up on El Morro grounds. The investment of money and resources could be better used to assist the existing program, Save A Gato. This program is effective in controlling the population, they also feed them, provide medical attention, and facilitate adoptions. In an open system however, there are more cats coming in, that is unfortunate but it has to do with a horrible lack of empathy, responsibility, and humanity in our society. It has nothing to do with the program's effectiveness. We need education to keep abandonment and mistreatment from happening, and the National Park Service could play a huge part in that, instead of just "removing" our precious and iconic cats and further propagating the view that cats are pests, something to get rid of. It is extremely tiring to witness prejudice against cats, they deserve to stay in their home. Cats are hunters and while they will hunt whether or not they are fed, it is clear that feeding them keeps them happy and cared for as they mostly hunt rodents, which would actually be a problem for the public health of the city.</p>

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419	<p>Estoy en contra de la eliminación de los gatos que había tan en áreas comunes como en el viejo San Juan en Puerto Rico.</p>
420	<p>Please there is no need to get rid or kill the cats or any other animal in San Juan.. animals are the best medicine for a lot of people. The cats in San Juan are sterilized .. so no more kittens.. they are not doing anything wrong... why instead plan an adoption weekends therefore the citizens have the opportunities to adopt them.</p> <p>Please reconsider this We have to become better men and women and avoid killing lives specially animals</p>
421	<p>Es cruel está acción. Se tiene colaboradores como Save a Gato etc. donde ustedes pueden ayudarles a cumplir su misión extraordinaria. Los residentes y visitantes queremos Los Gatos.</p>
422	<p>Qué crueldad e insensibilidad el que quiera matar a estos animalitos. A quién hacen daño???</p> <p>A nadie. Las veces que visito SJ, estos gatos no se sienten, no molestan pq al estar esterilizados no buscan apareamiento. DESISTAN DE ESTA HORRENDA IDEA. Ellos tienen derecho a vivir.</p>
423	<p>Why not sterilize them (for population control) and nourish them like other countries' governments do (Turkey, for example)? I'm a frequent visitor of El Morro and these cats don't even bother anyone, they're not dangerous and I have never seen any one of them attacking me or other people, meaning they are no threat. The historic site even has a sanctuary for them and people give them food and water. STOP KILLING INNOCENT ANIMALS!</p> <p>Por qué no los esterilizan (para tener mejor control de población) y los nutren como hacen los gobiernos de otros países (Turquía, por ejemplo)? Visito frecuentemente El Morro y estos gatos no molestan a nadie, son tranquilos y nunca he visto ni a uno atacarme o atacar a otra persona, por lo que no son amenaza alguna. El lugar cuenta con un santuario para ellos y la gente les da de comer y beber. NO MATEN ANIMALES INOCENTES!</p>
424	<p>I am surprised that this initiative didn't took place before. It is just disgusting the number of cats that hang around the area. I'm allergic to cats. I always enjoy visiting El Morro and the surrounding area. I had personally witnessed the inconvenience for the tourists and the eyesore image that the situation represent. No strait cats should be in Old San Juan, including dogs. These animals are better care in individual homes so they can be taken care off. The images represent a &quot;don't care&quot; attitude of our elected authorities to take care and guard these important recreation parks and monuments. Eliminate all of them, don't leave even ONE!</p>

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425	<p>Uno de mis mayores deleites cuando visito el Viejo San Juan es visitar la colonia de gatos del Paseo la Pricesa y areas aadyacentes para ver los gatos. Es una pena que lo unos consideramos un tesoro o lo consideren un estorbo. Ciudades enteras a traves del mundo se adaptan de forma armonica a estos, como en Turquia.</p>
426	<p>Los gatos no representa peligro para el ser humano . Existen muchas partes del mundo que son protegidos por el gobierno y las comunidades . No a la matan a de gastos en PR .</p>
427	<p>There must be another way. The cats of Old San Juan are a treasure. My grandfather Don Adon known as the candy man of Old San Juan for many many years used to tell us as little girls that Don Felisa always said to protect the cats. They helped keep the mice away in the 1940 and 50s. During that time the streets had a lot of disease and corrosion due to the rain, nonexistent drainage and the inadequate plumbing. With the many people in Old San Juan the cats helped tremendously by keeping rats and mice away. He would say that when you saw them admire them and leave them alone and respect God's creation. Here nearly 50 years later for me I see this the same way. The cats do more good than harm. Because of organizations such as Save a Gato the cats of Old San Juan are extremely clean, all sterilized, and treated for any medical ailments. They treat these cats better than any in the world. They are cared for tremendously. They keep the pest population down. You do not see stray dogs, loose chickens, mice, rats or diseased pigeons or birds in the area etc because the cats help to keep them out of Old San Juan. The Pigeons in Old San Juan's plaza carry more illness than the Gatos de San Juan. I propose a few solutions, National Parks and the city of San Juan should consider creating a fenced sanctuary that is behind a protected fenced-in area. A place that tourist and visitors can come to relax and enjoy the cats, if they would like to.</p> <p>For example, in Greece there is a cat sanctuary named God's Little People. The sanctuary is rather large. There is a hotel Villa, an area for volunteer traveling animal caregivers, a shop, and cafe. There is an entrance fee to. At this cafe hundreds of people come to visit during operational hours, they have tours and sell products that help to fund the efforts of the sanctuary. Because of this hundreds of cats have been adopted. Please see their website: https://godslittlepeoplecatrescue.org/</p> <p>Another example is a cat park, an indoor/outdoor sanctuary perhaps The Cat's House on the Kings in California, where they have indoor and outdoor cams set up on the property. Guests from around the world can watch the cats from anywhere. Because of this creative idea it has been proven to help hundreds of cats get adopted out. It brings tourist to the area to see the animals and provides thousands in donations annually. https://www.cathouseontheKings.com/facility.php</p> <p>There are far too many solutions other than removing these cats and or potentially putting them down. Puerto Rico already has such a barbaric reputation for the animal abuse that takes place on the island that if these cats are removed or eliminated in Old San Juan it is sending a clear negative message that animal cruelty, abuse and death is completely acceptable in Puerto Rico.</p> <p>Puerto Rico and National Parks CAN AND MUST DO BETTER and set a positive example by educated the community on caring for the cats and animals here. By teaching the island on how spaying and neutering pets on the island is the NORM not the opposite which creates a problem and over population!</p> <p>Debe haber otra manera. Los gatos del Viejo San Juan son un tesoro. Mi abuelo Don Adon</p>

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	<p>conocido como el dulcero del Viejo San Juan durante muchos muchos años nos contaba de pequeñas que Don Felisa siempre decía que protegíramos a los gatos. Ellos ayudaban a mantener alejados a los ratones en los años 40 y 50. Durante ese tiempo las calles tenían muchas enfermedades y corrosión debido a la lluvia, el inexistente drenaje y la inadecuada plomería. Con la gran cantidad de gente que había en el Viejo San Juan, los gatos ayudaban enormemente a mantener alejadas a las ratas y a los ratones. Decía que cuando los vieras los admiraras y los dejaras en paz y respetaras la creación de Dios. Aquí casi 50 años después para mí lo veo igual. Los gatos hacen más bien que mal. Gracias a organizaciones como Save a Gato los gatos del Viejo San Juan están extremadamente limpios, todos esterilizados y tratados de cualquier dolencia médica. Tratan a estos gatos mejor que a cualquier otro en el mundo. Los cuidan muchísimo. Mantienen baja la población de plagas. No se ven perros callejeros, gallinas sueltas, ratones, ratas o palomas o pájaros enfermos en la zona, etc. porque los gatos ayudan a mantenerlos fuera del Viejo San Juan. Las palomas de la plaza del Viejo San Juan llevan más enfermedades que los Gatos de San Juan. Propongo algunas soluciones, Parques Nacionales y la ciudad de San Juan deberían considerar la creación de un santuario vallado que esté detrás de una zona vallada protegida. Un lugar donde los turistas y visitantes puedan venir a relajarse y disfrutar de los gatos, si así lo desean.</p> <p>Por ejemplo, en Grecia hay un santuario de gatos llamado God's Little People. El santuario es bastante grande. Hay una villa hotelera, una zona para cuidadores voluntarios de animales itinerantes, una tienda y una cafetería. La entrada es de pago. En este café cientos de personas vienen a visitarlo durante las horas de funcionamiento, tienen visitas guiadas y venden productos que ayudan a financiar los esfuerzos del santuario. Gracias a esto, cientos de gatos han sido adoptados. Consulte su página web: https://godslittlepeoplecatrescue.org/</p> <p>Otro ejemplo es un parque de gatos, un santuario interior/ exterior quizás La Casa del Gato en los Reyes en California, donde tienen cámaras interiores y exteriores instaladas en la propiedad. Los huéspedes de todo el mundo pueden observar a los gatos desde cualquier lugar. Gracias a esta idea creativa, se ha demostrado que ayuda a que cientos de gatos sean adoptados. Atrae a los turistas a la zona para que vean a los animales y proporciona miles de donaciones al año. https://www.cathouseonthekings.com/facility.php</p> <p>Hay demasiadas soluciones que no sean la eliminación de estos gatos o su posible sacrificio. Puerto Rico ya tiene una reputación tan bárbara por el abuso de animales que tiene lugar en la isla que si estos gatos son retirados o eliminados en el Viejo San Juan se está enviando un claro mensaje negativo de que la crueldad, el abuso y la muerte de animales es completamente aceptable en Puerto Rico.</p> <p>Puerto Rico y Parques Nacionales PUEDEN Y DEBEN HACERLO MEJOR y dar un ejemplo positivo educando a la comunidad en el cuidado de los gatos y animales de aquí. ¡Enseñando a la isla cómo la esterilización de las mascotas en la isla es la NORMAL y no lo contrario que crea un problema y una sobre población!</p>
428	<p>Save a gato take care of san juan cats. They are spayed, neutered and fully vaccinated. They are doing what the governor and the mayor of old san juan doesn't do</p> <p>With that being said the only one who needs to be removed from san juan are the politicians that won't do anything for them.</p> <p>Do not kill the cats!!</p>

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429	<p>Hello, I oppose the plan to remove cats from the Old San Juan area. As a resident of San Juan I thoroughly enjoy the experience of using the Paseo for leisure and exercise, particularly because I enjoy the company of these cats. My experience has always been a pleasant one, first of all because the colony of cats that live there are friendly cats that usually don't interfere with human activities. I believe as a society it's our responsibility to share our urban spaces not only with residents and tourist, but with other living beings, including cats. As a mental health professional I am fully aware of the benefits of integrating animals in our surrounding for the development and maintenance of our mental health and well-being.</p> <p>I don't believe that thinking meal stations make the Paseo "ugly" is reason enough to remove the cats, and worst yet to remove the feeding stations and leave the cats to find food elsewhere. Other countries have found humane ways of dealing with stray animal populations and make sure health measures are followed for the enjoyment of all. I truly believe moving resources so that organizations like Save a Gato and others can keep taking care of the cats is the best way to go, including neutering, feeding, vaccinating and tracking. I sincerely hope we can keep enjoying the presence of this beautiful creatures for years to come. Thank you for you attention.</p>
430	<p>Hi, I oppose the plan to remove the cats from the Paseo area in Old San Juan. I believe we can coexist with animals in our society for the benefit of all. Instead of trying to get rid of the cats, which have become an attraction in Old San Juan, we should aim to protect them and integrate them as a vital part of the ecosystem. It is widely known that sharing urban spaces with animals has benefits for our well-being, and as such we should strive to evolve into a society that protects its animals, including stray ones. Our efforts should be directed in creating more initiatives like Save a Gato in order to protect stray cats through neutering, vaccination, feeding, tracking, etc. Please protect those that can't protect themselves and keep our beloved cats that we love and enjoy so much.</p>
431	<p>Please stop the killing of cats in San Juan.</p>
432	<p>Please do not kill the cats of El Paseo la Pincesa del Viejo San Juan. Its an act of cruelty against those animals. They have the right to live plus they keep the rats population under control.</p>
433	<p>Please, don't kill the cats at the Old San Juan, PR. That would be something horrible!! That's not the right thing to do. It got be a better way.</p>
434	<p>No estoy de acuerdo con la remoción de los gatos del viejo San Juan. En otras partes del mundo también existen poblaciones de gatos bien atendidas por sus ciudadanos y los visitantes simpatizan con dichas acciones y responsabilidad social. El capricho e ignorancia de muchos acabará por ser peor el remedio que la enfermedad.</p> <p>Lo que deben trabajar a nivel federal y estatal es la promoción de programas como TNR tal como Save a Gato ha hecho en el VSJ. No hay ningún acto humanitario en sacar un animal de su hábitat y bien cuidado. Al contrario sacarlos para llevarlo a otro lugar no es una solución. Los gatos no son un problema; el problema es la ignorancia de algunos.</p>
435	<p>Adelante mis opiniones en contra de este plan:</p> <p>1. Proclaman que será una remoción humanitaria pero debemos entender que esto no es real. No hay nada humanitario en remover un ser vivo de su hogar. Además, que en cuestiones de logística, sabemos que en Puerto Rico los albergues no tienen cabida para recibirlos y mucho menos capacidad para conseguirles hogar, pues son "high kill shelters" y son muy pocas las adopciones. Si el plan es enviarlos a Estados Unidos, eso requiere de fosters en la isla que los habiliten, proceso que será muy difícil para estos gatos y costoso. Por otra parte, es</p>

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	<p>sumamente injusto llenar los albergues y fosters de estos animales que ya tienen alguien que vele por ellos en su habitat, y negarle espacio a todos los que si verdaderamente necesitan ayuda. La realidad que es sumamente probable que estos gatos sean eutanizados. Esto es lo que el gobierno federal conoce como "humanitario".</p> <p>2. La colonia de Paseo del Morro es una colonia controlada. Save A Gato es una organizacion que lleva esforzandose por cuidar y esterilizar estos gatos. Se estan minimizando y destruyendo su trabajo y el de tantos voluntarios.</p> <p>3. Los gatos del VSJ funcionan como control de plagas como ratas a la ciudad. La acusación de que los gatos traen problemas de salud pública pues los gatos en su gran mayoría son gatos cuidados y saludables y su remoción si pudiese causar un problema de salud pública al alzar la población de ratas. Además, que en las áreas de parques nacionales hay otras plagas que no tienen relación a los gatos como las garrapatas del morro y a mi entender no se ha hecho nada al respecto.</p> <p>4. Los gatos del Viejo San Juan y de Paseo del Morro forman parte de la historia y cultura del mismo. Además, que el valor emocional que muchos tienen por los gatos del Viejo San Juan es grande. Mi actividad favorita en el Viejo San Juan es ver el atardecer en el Parque de los Gatos en Paseo del Morro rodeada de gatos. Es algo mágico. Nunca he visto un turista quejarse de ellos. Incluso he visto tours que paran en esta área y he visto la alegría de los turistas con los gatos. Los gatos del VSJ no afectan el turismo ni la experiencia de las personas negativamente. Les cuento más, mi novio que es extranjero para nuestra 4ta cita me llevo al parque de los gatos, que conste que él es alérgico a los gatos y es arqueólogo, osea que más apasionado que él por preservar artefactos y monumentos históricos difícil, y está en contra de esta medida que busca eliminar los gatos del VSJ.</p> <p>5. Es increíble que parques nacionales quiera invertir fondos en algo tan tonto e innecesario. ¿Porqué no utilizar esos fondos para re-establecer el Yunque?</p> <p>A veces estamos tan aferrados al pasado que se nos olvida ser gentiles con los que viven en el presente, que en el futuro también se vuelven parte de la historia. Cuando esto sea pasado, no quiero tener que decirle a mis hijos y a mis nietos como le quitaron su casa y su vida injustamente a estos seres vivos. No sé como sin ellos volvería a caminar las calles de nuestro Viejo San Juan, sería un dolor muy grande.</p>
436	<p>Cats should be removed from the El Paseo at El Morro and a plan to increase native wildlife habitat should be put in place. There is an immense body of research that suggests that feral cats are detrimental to wildlife and to the cats themselves. It is my opinion that 17 years of catch-neuter-return is more than enough of an opportunity for the program to have its turn at management. As it occurs throughout the world, the program is ineffective at reducing populations of cats likely because El Paseo is not an isolated system. A 2009 essay published in the journal of conservation biology, Critical Assessment of Claims Regarding Management of Feral Cats by Trap-Neuter-Return , highlights all of the classic arguments or claims at the time in favor of trap-neuter-return and how they are not supported by research. Among the claims are "Feral Cats Do Not Contribute to the Declines of Native Species" where they argue that indeed, cats lead to the death of billions of birds annually. I feel like the lives of cats do not supersede the lives of birds. I am a cat owner and I do not let my cat outdoors because of a sense of responsibility over the wildlife in my area. I feel just as strongly that we should not provide ongoing habitat for cats where wildlife should be in the Paseo.</p> <p>I'm including links to the essay and a google scholar link to all the studies (225 today) that cite it with varying for and against arguments.</p>

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	<p>https://scholar.google.com/scholar?cites=7157162212470738407&as_sdt=5,33&sciodt=0,33&hl=en</p> <p>https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1523-1739.2009.01174.x</p>
437	<p>This is sick, sad and disgusting. Please reconsider this it is inhumane.</p>
438	<p>I recently moved to Syracuse, NY after living all my life in my beautiful birthplace, Puerto Rico. I start by saying this so you know where my concern comes from, even when I do not live in Puerto Rico anymore. A few years ago I decided to adopt a cat and chose to do so from Save A Gato, a non-profit that takes care of all the kitties in Old San Juan. Needless to say, I still have my beautiful kitty Nina living here in Syracuse, NY and I love her with my life.</p> <p>It was shocking to find out about your plans as the federal government to "humanely" remove all these cats that are so very well taken care of, don't bother anyone, and on the contrary, they are mostly very shy and scared of human contact. During the day they can be seen, but not all of them as cats usually sleep during the night and sleep during the day. They are well fed, spayed/neutered and fully vaccinated, as opposed to many cats in most of Puerto Rico that even when they have "guardians," these fail to spay/neuter and vaccinate them. As all of God's creatures, cats fulfill a very important role in the balance of the ecosystem and in the Old San Juan, they make sure that such a beautiful place does not become infested with plagues such as rats and cockroaches to mention one or their basic and very useful roles. On the other hand, they have been admired by tourists who fall in love with them as well as with Save A Gato's ministry of caring for these lovely creatures. Puerto Rico is going through an unconscionable crisis on all possible aspects, but mostly in the infrastructure and financial matters of our lives. We are also trying to push through a morals and values crisis with one of the highest rates of animal cruelty and abandonment in the world.</p> <p>The cats in Old San Juan do not represent an issue, but the federal government's plans and actions do contribute to the already deteriorated moral values of our culture regarding our sense of responsibility and care for other living beings. "Humanely disposing" of cats that are very much loved and very well taken care of is not a humane approach at all; it is a massacre of major proportions that will not solve anything but will keep adding to the existing crisis.</p> <p>Why does the federal government not implement instead a plan of massive spaying/neutering programs that will most likely solve a situation that has gotten out of control in the rest of Puerto Rico and yet chooses to spend money on "solving" a problem that only exists in their cruel plans? Why spend money on killing innocent and healthy creatures that are loved instead of helping to avoid the rapidly multiplying rate of cats that are NOT spayed/neutered? This nonsense plan only makes me think that there is an ulterior motive that is very distant from being humane towards cats and solving a (non-existing) problem in Old San Juan. Instead of adding to the rampant animal cruelty, why don't you add to raising more awareness and being really humane; add to what matters most which is compassion. Killing or "humanely disposing" as you like to call it, IS NOT the answer. After all, had you made a good research you would know that "eliminating" a cat colony is impossible. It will only make way for other cats to establish a new colony and it does not stop irresponsible people from abandoning more cats in the area. Which battle do you choose? The really humane one or the one in which you, the federal government becomes part of the problem? I choose to keep supporting humane causes such as Save A Gato's and other similar ones.</p>

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439	Saludos cordiales a quien le tenga el dicho de leer esto. Pienso que lo planificado sobre la población de felinos que se sitúan en el área del parque es completamente innecesario. Los felinos que viven en y abundan en el área forman gran parte de la experiencia que los visitantes tienen al caminar por las áreas. Dudo que los vayan a trasladar a un lugar seguro. Dudo que los vayan a cuidar. Hay personas y organizaciones que se ocupan de que esos animales estén esterilizados y cuidados. No me cabe duda que si esos animalitos no estuvieran en el área el parque y sus alrededores estarían infestados de plagas. Tampoco cabe duda que la experiencia de estar ahí sin la presencia de los animalitos fuera monótona. No permitan la atrocidad que tienen planeada.
440	I am from Puerto Rico and I'm asking that the San Juan Cats be saved. They are one of our national treasures. They are hurting no one but instead bring Jo's and a lot of photo ops for tourist as well as locals. SAVE THE SAN JUAN CATS!
441	Please continue to work with Save A Gato to find an alternative that does not include killing cats. There are many places worldwide that embrace the presence of cats and make it part of their tourist attraction and appeal.
442	Por favor detengan de inmediato ese plan,totalmente innecesario y cruel,están esterilizados y son alimentados por voluntarios y entidades sin fines de lucro,luchemos por sus vidas no sus muertes,pobres almas de mi corazon.
443	I am a Puerto Rico resident who continuously visits Old San Juan. I like the cats. The live on San Juan since the city was established. The are vital to rodent and plague control and they do not harm anyone. The cats are also not causing havoc to the environment or fauna because Old San San Juan is a metropolitan city. The cats are also a tourist attraction. Removing the cats will cause more problems to the residents of San Juan.
444	Dejen los gatitos en el viejo San Juan ellos tienen derecho a vivir en paz no sean abusadores hay una organización que se encarga de sus cuidados Ellos ni se hacen daño a nadie y los turistas les encanta verlos. O es que tienen una agenda para beneficiar a algún amigo del alma del Alcalde
445	Hola Dejen los gatos en paz. No hay ser mas invasivo y dañino que el ser humano. Los gatos controlan los ratones y son parte del atractivo turístico del viejo San Juan. Según entiendo esos gatos estan esterilizados y son atendidos. Si sacan esos gatos, van a aparecer otros nuevos gatos tarde o temprano. Tradúcelo.
446	Thank you for taking comments. Please remember the world is watching how you follow through. This will impact the way our island is seen around the world and its tourism. We have a terrible stigma when it comes to our lack of care and empathy to homeless animals. Here we have a wonderful group taking care of these beautiful beings, which are a great tourist attraction as well. Please prove the world wrong and show we actually care for our animals. Do not kill them or send them to shelters, where we KNOW the sad outcome. They're happy and cared for as they are now. Perhaps join forces and help adopt some instead of going the cruel way around it.
447	Stop! If you take out the kitties the rats are going to eat everyone alive. You will see them on the streets at all times of day & night and that is not good for the people that live there or for the tourists!! PS: I'm a puertorican born and raced in San Juan & Santurce!!

Corr ID	Correspondence
448	<p>Amamos los gatos que residen en Viejo San Juan. Estos son esterilizados, cuidados y alimentados por una organización privada de residentes, Save a Gato, y no hacen daño a nada ni a nadie; solo traen alegría a locales y visitantes. Ni el gobierno de Puerto Rico ni el de EEUU hace algo por los cientos de miles de animales realengos que sufren día a día en nuestras calles. Esto que tienen en mente hacer con estos gatos sanjuaneros, que ya han sido llevados a veterinarios, es una completa locura y crueldad. Sepan que TODOS estamos en contra del crimen que pretenden cometer. El ser humano es responsable de destruir todo su entorno, no seres inocentes que se han reproducido por la irresponsabilidad humana y solo piden un mínimo de espacio en el mundo. ☹️</p>
449	<p>You cannot kill those animals in fact they are there because people of the community feed them and gave them a small shelter. They're a lot of them and they are together and not getting abused because they're receiving food and a place that they can rest without being harm. Besides seeing them it what makes San Juan a better place, seeing them all together and sleeping in peace it shows us that they are good people that still care for innocent animals. So do not kill them, they cannot defend themselves of humans but we can defend them. So please I'm begging you do not kill them. They're fine and taking care of, they are getting feed and gettin water and a place to live in peace. Do not kill those animals when they are the ones that are getting the attention when people travel to San Juan, you can see people taking pictures, calling them, and saying wow they take care of them. So don't do it because they deserve to live more than humans does. Thanks</p>
450	<p>Ho El Viejo San Juan se a caracterizado por ser el ejemplo de respeto con nuestros gatos y demostrado que es el area mas civilizada por la presencia de los gatos. Gente este es el mayor atractivo de esta ruta y del Viejo San Juan, he caminado solo por el placer de ver a estas criaturas libres y felices. La labor de Save a Gato es una sin precedentes y que debería ser imitada en toda la isla, su compromiso y el amor que le dan a los gatos no tiene limites. Ayuden a que no surjan injusticias y a que prevalezca la empática y el respeto por la vida en este caso los gatos. El Viejo San Juan sin los gatos pierde su atractivo. Yo lo visito con mucha frecuencia solo por los gatos.</p> <p>No al maltrato y al traslado de esta criaturas amorosas que lo que hacen es embellecer nuestro Viejo San Juan. Respeto por los animales y por los seres con vida. Estos gatos son maravillosos y son son parte del Viejo San Juan y de su historia, estan cuidados y protegidos y deberian ser un ejemplo a copiar en muchas pueblos y ciudades. Enfoquen su tiempo en lis seres humanos que su son puercos y que algunos no respetan la propiedad publica ni la historia.</p> <p>AMEMOS A LOS ANIMALES Y EN ESPECISL A ESTOS HERMOSOS GATOS QUE EMBELLECEN EL.VIEJO SAN JUAN. GRACIAS SAVE A GATO.PIR SU GRAN LABOR Y POR EL.CUIDO DE LOS GATOS.</p>
451	<p>Cómo van a quitarle la vida a unos seré indefenso abusadores!!!</p>
452	<p>Hello good afternon un San Juan Puerto Rico are a Lot of street cats that are of the people un the city please leave there alone.</p>
453	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>Recently I heard the news regarding the National Park Service plan in Puerto Rico to dispose of the feral cats colony in Old San Juan. My intention is to create an awareness that cats have been around the walled city of San Juan for centuries. Since the beginning of the colonization of the island, by the Spaniards in the 16th century as a pest control. Many important cities and capitals in the world have famous cats colonies like: Rome, Istanbul just to name a few of</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>them. They're protected by the local authorities and non profit organizations. These cats thrive and live in a peaceful conditions along humans that have been taking good care of them.</p> <p>In Puerto Rico there are non profits organizations like: "Save a Cat" and other groups of neighbors, who support the cat colony in old San Juan by providing food, fixing and neuter cats to avoid excessive reproduction of these animals. My concern with this plan from the NPS; is that the scope of the project should include protection of the cats and not merely to use this plan as a way to exterminate these animal. The walled city of San Juan is full of restaurants and cafeterias. Business in the food industry that by its nature attracts rats and mice, vectors of diseases and plagues. Cats historically has always been there as a predator, to serve as control against the population of these pests around the world for ages. Please take this into consideration, since any other motivation to eliminate cats might create non desirable problems to the fragile ecosystem and habitat to the residents and visitors of old San Juan.</p>
454	<p>I am a citizen of Puerto Rico and I am against the killing of the cats of El Morro. These cats are being taken cared of by the community. They are being fed and sterilized. They are not suffering. Please reconsider.</p>
455	<p>Estoy en contra de que estos gatos sean eliminados. Los mismos están esterilizados y protegidos con comida y agua. Si eliminan los gatos tendrán problemas con las ratas ya que todos sabemos que Viejo San Juan tiene sistema de túneles. El eliminarlos es un error deben pensar en el ecosistema.</p>
456	<p>I am against this criminal act, I vote for the cats to keep being alive.</p>
457	<p>No kills any catbin San Juan</p>
458	<p>Animal abandonment and overpopulation of strays is undoubtedly a health and public concern. Trap Neuter and Release programs have been shown to be very effective in controlling feline populations. Sadly, in Puerto Rico, these programs are often funded by non profit organization or by private citizens. Federal funding should be made available to implement these programs in a larger scale. Also, state and federal laws regarding animal abandonment should and must be implemente with more rigor. Mass euthanasia is never the answer to overpopulation. These animals are not responsible for their conduct because ethically, they cannot be held responsible for their conduct. Us humans should be held responsible. People who abandon their animals are the true culprits.</p>
459	<p>Es completamente absurdo y un crimen un delito. Matar a un ser vivo sea cual sea con toda intención y alevosía de terminar con su vida por el mero hecho de que a ustedes les molesta es asesinato. Totalmente descabellado y siniestro su plan de eliminar los gatos de San Juan que mal les hacen a nadie? Mas mal hacen a la sociedad estos raperos sucios que denigran nuestra sociedad y ustedes los llevan a San Juan y los aplauden. Si desaparecen los gatos en sus conciencias quedan si es que tienen alguna y recuerden que todo el mal que hacemos se multiplica para atrás.</p> <p>It is completely absurd and an a crime. Killing a living being of any kind with all intent and treachery to end his life for the mere fact that it bothers you is murder. Totally crazy and sinister this plan to eliminate the cats of San Juan, what harm do they do to anyone? More harm done to society by these dirty rappers who denigrate our society and you take them to San Juan and applaud them. If the cats disappear in your consciences, they remain if you have any and remember that all the evil we do multiplies backwards.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
460	Si hay una organización brindándole ayuda a los gatos no veo el porqué sacarlos de ahí. No sería mejor brindar apoyo a la organización? A donde los van a llevar si los sacan. No hay en PR santuario para ellos. Si los llevan a albergues los van a matar. En realidad son capaz de eso. Yo los he visto y da gusto observarlos. Da vergüenza como otras naciones los protegen aquí los quieren sacrificar. Que se queden donde están!
461	<p>Está postura tomada por el Servicio de Parques Nacionales carece de respeto a la vida y es una forma inhumana de resolver una situación, si alguna. Estos felinos son alimentados y cuidados no representan ningún peligro para los visitantes. De un país como Estados Unidos donde se pregona los "derechos de todos", la "libertad", el "respeto", esperamos algo más que una masacre de inofensivos gatos que ayudan a controlar las plagas.</p> <p>Ser una potencia mundial es mucho más que invadir, bombardear e imponerse. Una potencia mundial debe demostrar que respeta la vida en todas sus formas, debe demostrar remedios inteligentes que sean dignos de emular.. Echen un vistazo a Turquía TR.</p>
462	the cats of san juan are being protected, fed and neutered by saveagato. when they are sick they are taken to the vet and those that are adoptable or kittens are put up for adoption. they are not a pest. They are loving animals that accompany both residents and tourists and are happy living outdoors without harming anyone.
463	Los Gatos que residen en el Viejo San Juan son parte del entorno de nuestros monumentos históricos. Es inconcebible que quieran sacarlos de su hábitat natural y hogar por tantos años. Espero que reconsideren esta decisión y permitan que sigan viviendo en su entorno. Tienen derecho a vivir en paz en su propio país. Apliquen la Constitución y respételes sus derecho de vivir en paz.
464	I follow a lot of animal rescues.... I believe they should stay there, since they have been there for many years... Definitely all cats should be TNRed ,and do that consistently...Also If possible any pregnant cats should be taken in and either have kittens or spay if very early in pregnancy...Also any kittens should try to be caught and socialized if possible.... Thank you...
465	Stop cruelty and leave our cats live freely! They don't deserve to die because some people believe they are less important. There is no reason to exterminate them. People are taking care of them. Please, let them live!
466	<p>I am writing to express my deep concern about the possible removal of community cats from Old San Juan.</p> <p>Community cats, also known as feral cats, are unowned cats who live happy and healthy lives outdoors. Contrary to popular belief, they are the same species as pet cats and pose no threat if left alone. This community of cats is well cared for by the people of Old San Juan and Save a Gato (SAG); a non-profit organization dedicated to the welfare of these cats through TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return), fostering, and adoption. Save A Gato has cared for and managed the colony of cats on the Paseo del Morro and the rest of Old San Juan for years with distinction and success.</p> <p>TNR is the only humane and effective approach to community cats. Since most community cats are not socialized around humans, the outdoors is the only proper home for them. During the process of TNR, community cats are humanely trapped and taken to a veterinarian to be spayed/neutered, vaccinated and ear tipped for identification. After recovering, they are returned to their outdoor home in Old San Juan.</p> <p>These cats have been part of the community for decades. In addition to their communal value, they are also a significant tourist attraction. Take for example the country of Turkey: Turks are famous for their love of animals and a rich culture of caring for their community cats in</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	particular. Photos and videos of these cats playing and relaxing in their outdoor homes spread like wildfire on social media and have become both a tourist attraction and a sign of the brilliant love and humanity that Turkish culture fosters. Likewise, community cats are known locally to enjoy a very comfortable life in Puerto Rico, and this is something that we should amplify and share with the world.
467	Please don't kill the cats or remove them from San Juan, PR.
468	<p>I am vehemently opposed of your free ranging cat management plan. The plan is cruel and wrong. Without cats there will be a serious rodent problem. If you think you can solve that problem with poison please think about the birds that will die. I enjoy seeing the when I visit San Juan. If they are removed I will no longer visit. Istanbul program for stray dogs and cats is something you should try to implement. Here are some resources</p> <p>https://www.thedailyjournal.com/story/news/2021/11/03/istanbuls-stray-dog-and-cat-program-something-strive/6198749001/ https://www.livekindly.com/turkey-animal-welfare-law/ https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkey-ups-safety-efforts-for-both-stray-animals-and-citizens/news https://madeinturkeytours.com/why-cats-rule-the-streets-of-istanbul/</p> <p>Please don't remove the free ranging cats. If you do there will be dire consequences. Thank you</p>
469	Reclamo para evitar que los gatos que viven en el Viejo San Juan en Puerto Rico, sean asesinados. La gran mayoría se encuentran operados y son alimentados por vecinos. No hay necesidad para que se tome esta acción macabra en contra de unos animales que no molestan.
470	<p>What you're planning to do is indignant. These cats in Old San Juan don't do any harm to anyone. This is their home and lost of people take care of them. If you proceed to disappear the cats I hope karma take care of all of you and that a plague of rats invade Old San Juan. Cats are being very discriminated in all Puerto Rico. We all hope this action will not go well.</p> 
471	No hay razón por eliminar estos gatos. Son parte de nuestro VSJ como sus adoquines. Están cuidados y atendidos por Save a Gato. Deberian proveerles más ayudas. Porque no proveer a esta entidad un edificio en el VSJ donde puedan atender mejor a estos gatos. Los animales hoy día son bien cuidados y protegidos por ley. Estos gatos merecen ser cuidados. No ser tratados como plaga. Se puede llegar a acuerdos y vivir en armonía.
472	Removal of the cats will only be a temporary solution. Many of these cats also come from from irresponsible pet owners that do not spay/neuter and properly care for their pets. Invasive species typically refers to wildlife, not domesticated animals. I would agree that sick animals should be removed from these colonies and euthanized if necessary, to prevent the spread of disease with the colony and potentially to humans. However cats in general don't pose a danger to humans. They are not aggressive and rarely pass disease to humans unless there is direct contact with saliva or feces. Better management of the colonies by Save a Gato combined with humane euthanizing of sick colony animals should be tried first before condoning the wholesale "removal" of hundreds of animals, which is incredibly cruel. Moreover, while there may be some locals and tourists who are put off by these cats, by and large, they're more of a draw to the area than they are a nuisance to a few.
473	Please do not remove the cats from their "home". They may be stray cats, but they are neutered and harmless! You say it's going to be a pasive humanitarian process but in PR there is no space in shelters for any more animals. Leave them be. They are HARMLESS.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>PEOPLE TAKE CARE OF THEM, feed them. The government doesn't spend a dime on them!!! Don't move them!</p> <p>Por favor no saquen los gatos de su "hogar"/habitat. Ellos son callejeros, pero están esterilizados y no hacen daño a nadie. El gobierno dice que serán humanitarios pero los albergues en PR no aguantan más animales. Déjenlos quietos por favor. Son pasivos. No hacen daño! Hay personas que los cuidan y les dan comida. El gobierno no gasta ni un centavo en ellos. Déjenlos donde están!</p>
474	<p>Cats are part of Old San Juan!!!! For years these sweet creatures have walked along some of the streets of OSJ, bothering absolutely no one. It is important to note that both the residents of the area and a Non-Profit called Save a Gato (http://www.saveagato.com/) have been taking care of them and making sure that they are all healthy, safe, and neutered. They also have an adoption service.</p> <p>These cats are part of the OSJ culture and life - for almost 20 years! Like many other countries, they have adopted this beautiful city as their home - and Puerto Ricans have accepted them with open arms. Besides being a friendly encounter when we visit, they also help with pest control.</p> <p>I strongly disagree with this project, as a Puerto Rican and as a previous OSJ resident.</p>
475	<p>I am appalled at the thought of a colonizing force imposing itself over innocent animals that not only cause no harm to residents and locals, but are an enormous attraction for tourists. As a person who has adopted one of Old San Juan's sweet cats, I can attest to all the amazing work that local organizations like Save a Gato do to preserve the health of the cats that are part of the Old San Juan colonies, and how they go above and beyond to ensure their well being and, in turn, that of residents and tourists. The proposed MURDER of hundreds of cats is barbaric and we locals simply will not stand for it. Reevaluate your priorities; they are currently Machiavellian.</p>
476	<p>La política publica de Puerto Rico respecto a los animales es basicamente inexistente. Por mas de dos decadas el problema de la sobrepoblación de animales nos ha estado afectando grandemente. No hay regulatons de ninguna manera y en casa esquina de la Isla encuentras la misma situación, animales, perros, gatos, caballos y hasta cerdos abandonados y alimentandose de basura. En condiciona de salud deprorables y de sufrimiento y NUNCA, NUNCA el gobierno de Puerto Rico ha hecho algo al respecto. No hay campañas de vacunación, no ha esterilizaciones masivas, no hay refugios para animales del gobierno, no hay ayuda y participación del gobierno en NADA. Nuestros animales sufren El abandono, y unas muertes inimaginables simplemente porque el gobierno Cierra su vista hacia este problema. Los Gatos del Viejo San Juan, ya son parte del parque. Son elemento de armonia con la naturaleza. Son gatos que están en una Colonia controlada. Las colonias de gatos cuando se alteran (se remueven mienmbros de está o se relocate animales) se están arriesgando a que nuevos gatos que NO ESTAN NI VACUNADOS NI EATERILIZADOS LLEGUEN AL PARQUE. Los ciudadanos que están a cargo de estas colonias en El Viejo San Juan están haciendo El trabajo del gobierno, no es JUSTO QUE QUIERAN CASTIGAR A ESTOS ANIMALITOS. Y SI HAN HECHO BIEN EL RESEARCH SE DARAN CUENTA QUE CUANDO SACAS UNA COLONIA DE GATOS EN MESES COMO MUCHO SE HARA OTRA QUE NO ESTARA CONTROLADA. Lo que tienen que hacer es SER compasivos, consientes y universe a estos ciudadanos que dejan su vida cuidando de estos gatos.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
477	<p>I would like to comment that in Sa Juan the are where cats are is better conserved than other areas and it has its attractive. The cats are kept safe, given food and receive veterinary treatment and are under control circumstances. I believe that National Parks could use this as an attractive for tourists. The cats are used to see people and the tourists could come and have pictures with them. Maybe some monetary contribution or fee could be recollected to be used in the caring of these animals. It is a fact the government does little for the people and much less for animals. We need solutions for our problems, not additional problems for the country. It is all a matter of good intention. Thanks.</p> <p>Disclosure of my information is not what I want, but been notified it could be disclosed is a an act to try to avoid someone to write what he/she believes in.</p>
478	<p>To the National Park Service.</p> <p>I do not live in San Juan, but my husband and I love cruising, and we have taken several cruises out of San Juan. We typically spend 1-2 nights before the cruise ship leaves in old San Juan because we LOVE the city. I am also a cat lover and actively volunteer with a cat rescue in Florida. Part of the charm of Old San Juan are the cats, managed by Save A Gato. I have adopted one of the street cats and brought her to Florida to live with me. This would not have been possible without the help of Save A Gato.</p> <p>Your plan to eliminate cats is cruel, inhumane, and will make us reconsider if we ever want to spend another tourist dollar in San Juan. And I can guarantee you we are not the only tourists that feel that way; tourists love the cats and that is part of the reason they visit. You can not afford to alienate tourists! I do believe the cats need to be fixed; however, eliminating cats from an area does not work as new cats will just move in. There will always be irresponsible people that do not fix their pets or abandon them.</p> <p>Instead of eliminating or killing cats, I suggest you work with Save A Gato to maintain the well being of the colony and continue to get them fixed.</p> <p>I hope that you will do the right and humane thing.</p> <p>Best regards,</p>
479	<p>Por favor no los remuevan del Paseo Del Morro, es lindo pasar por ahí y verlos. Ellos no le hacen daño a nadie. Lo que hay que hacer es alimentarlos y esterilizarlos, pero jamás matarlos, Ahí están seguros.</p>
480	<p>I am writing to express my opposition to NPS' plan to remove the free roaming cats in Paseo Del Morro, Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. These cats have been part of Old San Juan's landscape and culture for centuries, and they help keep the rat population down (and consequently, cases of leptospirosis and other diseases). Tourists love them, too. There's absolutely no reason to get rid of the cats, except from some tantrum by a higher-up. Ridiculous!</p>
481	<p>I am an animal lover, own two and responsible for them. But throughout these last three years I must agree that the cat population in the areas that surrounds Save a Gato and Paseo has gone out of control. Cat population has increased. Save a Gato has a beautiful goal but they need more personal to do it and very important, they have to learn that cat 🐱 are cats, and must let them act and survive like one. Once a month sterilization is not enough. Is there any evidence that it's being done ? How many are being sterilized monthly ? Any Vet evidence available ? As I said before I love animals and would not hurt any of them. But due to the increase population of cats in the areas already specified</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>I suggest the relocation of Save A Gato, and in a long term, close. The surrounding areas of Save a Gato has a strong odor, not heathy for no human being. This situation is also noticed in some of the feeding stations. This odor does not invite tourists to walk again through that beautiful trail. I myself have not walked through there in the past three years because of the strong odor, it very shameful. I suggest, relocation of save a Gato, decrease of feeding stations from 8 to 5 in the first four months, later in the next four months decrease to three four months later decrease to two and than eliminate all. Show park service monthly evidence of sterilization, how many cats were causando how many cats were adopted in PR as in USA. The organization is totally response for the cleaning of the areas where the cats are, to include: surrounding of save a Gato, areas of feeding stations in paseo, and the children area (area above the tennis court). We must also educate the people to be responsible for there mascots, I think the mayor could assist in that aspect. We should follow the example of some European countries.An organization can't sustain itself without the proper personnel and Ian sure Save a Gato does not have that personal.</p>
482	<p>Dear SAJU Superintendent,</p> <p>I lived in San Juan for 2 years while I worked with the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico. During that time, I became very involved volunteering with Save a Gato and their Trap-Neuter-Return and animal welfare goals. I am writing to express my support for TNR, adoptable animal transport to areas where there is demand for adoption (such as within the mainland U.S.), and expanded low cost/no cost spay/neuter programs & education within Puerto Rico.</p> <p>TNR is the only humane and effective approach to managing community cats. Community cats live happy and healthy lives outdoors. However, since most community cats are not socialized or friendly to people, they cannot be adopted and live indoors, making community cats the most at-risk animals in shelters. They usually do not leave animal shelters alive. Catching and dumping OSJ's community cats into shelters will likely result in the mass killing of these cats.</p> <p>I was deeply involved in TNR with Save a Gato during my post-Hurricane Maria time living in Puerto Rico. I personally helped capture unsterilized cats. I helped maintain the sanctuary space in OSJ. I organized deep cleaning events. I negotiated with a friend to donate his time to paint the murals along the inside of the building. And, I personally transported half a dozen cats to the Massachusetts area for adoption on my trips north to visit family. The mission of Save a Gato, dedication of its volunteers, and the cats of OSJ remain near and dear to my heart and have influenced the trajectory of my life to be more engaged in supporting TNR, even after leaving PR. I remain a taxpayer and avid public land recreationist & I am committed to supporting what is the right balance for my public lands. I understand there are two sides to this debate, both with valid concerns and laudable goals.</p> <p>Nonetheless, studies show TNR stabilizes community cat populations by stopping the breeding cycle, thereby improving cats' lives by relieving them of the constant stresses of mating and pregnancy, while also vaccinating them against rabies. TNR benefits the public by stopping disruptive mating behaviors like yowling, spraying, roaming, and fighting. TNR also saves taxpayer money by reducing shelter intake, shelter euthanasia, and calls to animal control.</p> <p>Hundreds of communities have adopted an official TNR ordinance or policy, and thousands more conduct grassroots, volunteer-led programs, like Save a Gato. These numbers continue to rise as more communities realize the outdated approach of catching and killing cats is cruel and ineffective.</p> <p>Moreover, the proposed removal of the food bins along the Paseo will not effectively deter cats from the area. Feeding bans have been shown to be ineffective in decreasing community</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>cat populations. These cats do not depend on people feeding them to survive. As scavengers, cats will find food in garbage cans and dumpsters. Cats are territorial, bonded to their surroundings, and will not leave simply because compassionate people can no longer legally feed them. Ultimately, a feeding ban will result in cats roaming farther to find food and digging through people's trash.</p> <p>Instead, expanding access on the island to low cost or no cost spay/neuter programs will greatly reduce the population of unwanted, abandoned animals flooding areas like OSJ where misguided individuals dump their cats, knowing someone else will care for them. This is not just a cat problem in OSJ, but a Commonwealth-wide problem of dumping unwanted cats and dogs. Indeed, there is an area on the south side of the island colloquially known as Dead Dog Beach, reflecting this practice and its unfortunate effects on the environment and the animals that are dumped.</p> <p>Studies show that in homes where the income was \$35,000 or higher, almost all cats (around 93%) were neutered, while 75% of unneutered cats live in homes where the income was less than \$35,000. (Data from alleycat.org). The lower-income owners who were interviewed primarily cited high cost as the reason for not sterilizing their cats.</p> <p>With much of Puerto Rico's population living below the poverty line, spay/neuter is inaccessible. Thus, unwanted cats are often dumped in Old San Juan or other areas of the island, as the perceived only viable alternative to humanely unload the burden of unwanted pets. Thus, education and access to low cost/no cost sterilization resources is key. Let's tackle the problem at its root, rather than band-aid the symptoms.</p> <p>I propose the National Park Service partner with local government, Save a Gato, and organizations like the Humane Society, to facilitate implementation of regular low cost/no cost spay/neuter initiatives in OSJ. This will reduce the effects of animal dumping and the burden on the underfunded, 100% volunteer group that is Save a Gato. This should be a catalyst to implementing low cost/no cost sterilization island wide, to truly address this problem once and for all. Education and access to sterilization resources will humanely curb the population of unwanted animals. Not catch and elimination. Not TNR without resources or support. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
483	<p>The cats in Old San Juan are being part of the community for many years and there are organizations that care for them. They are vaccinated, sterilized and fed.</p> <p>Also the cats help the community eliminating rats and other vermin.</p> <p>Many people likes and care for that cats and are concerned if their are taken out of their current environment and their final destiny. That will be a cruel and inhumane act against them. Also we have the 154 of 2008 law for the Protection and Well Being of animals in Puerto Rico that can apply to the situation of the cats. They are innocent creatures that deserves to live in the environment to which they are adapted for many years. I' m against the removal of the cats in Old San Juan.</p>
484	<p>Dear SAJU Superintendent,</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for TNR, adoptable animal transport to areas where there is demand for adoption (such as within the mainland U.S.), and expanded low cost/no cost spay/neuter programs & education within Puerto Rico.</p> <p>TNR is the only humane and effective approach to managing community cats. Community cats live happy and healthy lives outdoors. However, since most community cats are not socialized or friendly to people, they cannot be adopted and live indoors, making community</p>

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	<p>cats the most at-risk animals in shelters. They usually do not leave animal shelters alive. Catching and dumping OSJ's community cats into shelters will likely result in the mass killing of these cats.</p> <p>Studies show TNR stabilizes community cat populations by stopping the breeding cycle, thereby improving cats' lives by relieving them of the constant stresses of mating and pregnancy, while also vaccinating them against rabies. TNR benefits the public by stopping disruptive mating behaviors like yowling, spraying, roaming, and fighting. TNR also saves taxpayer money by reducing shelter intake, shelter euthanasia, and calls to animal control.</p> <p>Hundreds of communities have adopted an official TNR ordinance or policy, and thousands more conduct grassroots, volunteer-led programs, like Save a Gato. These numbers continue to rise as more communities realize the outdated approach of catching and killing cats is cruel and ineffective.</p> <p>Moreover, the proposed removal of the food bins along the Paseo will not effectively deter cats from the area. Feeding bans have been shown to be ineffective in decreasing community cat populations. These cats do not depend on people feeding them to survive. As scavengers, cats will find food in garbage cans and dumpsters. Cats are territorial, bonded to their surroundings, and will not leave simply because compassionate people can no longer legally feed them. Ultimately, a feeding ban will result in cats roaming farther to find food and digging through people's trash.</p> <p>Instead, expanding access on the island to low cost or no cost spay/neuter programs will greatly reduce the population of unwanted, abandoned animals flooding areas like OSJ where misguided individuals dump their cats, knowing someone else will care for them. This is not just a cat problem in OSJ, but a Commonwealth-wide problem of dumping unwanted cats and dogs. Indeed, there is an area on the south side of the island colloquially known as Dead Dog Beach, reflecting this practice and its unfortunate effects on the environment and the animals that are dumped.</p> <p>Studies show that in homes where the income was \$35,000 or higher, almost all cats (around 93%) were neutered, while 75% of unneutered cats live in homes where the income was less than \$35,000. (Data from alleycat.org). The lower-income owners who were interviewed primarily cited high cost as the reason for not sterilizing their cats.</p> <p>With much of Puerto Rico's population living below the poverty line, spay/neuter is inaccessible. Thus, unwanted cats are often dumped in Old San Juan or other areas of the island, as the perceived only viable alternative to humanely unload the burden of unwanted pets. Thus, education and access to low cost/no cost sterilization resources is key. Let's tackle the problem at its root, rather than band-aid the symptoms.</p> <p>I propose the National Park Service partner with local government, Save a Gato, and organizations like the Humane Society, to facilitate implementation of regular low cost/no cost spay/neuter initiatives in OSJ. This will reduce the effects of animal dumping and the burden on the underfunded, 100% volunteer group that is Save a Gato. This should be a catalyst to implementing low cost/no cost sterilization island wide, to truly address this problem once and for all. Education and access to sterilization resources will humanely curb the population of unwanted animals. Not catch and elimination. Not TNR without resources</p>

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	<p>or support. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Please let me know if you have any questions.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
485	<p>The Paseo del Morro neighborhood is a controlled neighborhood. Save A Gato is an organization that has been striving to care for and sterilize these cats. They are cats that gets food and medical attention .</p> <p>Old San Juan's cats works as a pest control for rats in the city. The accusation that cats bring public health problems contradicts the experiences around the world and the investigative paper's about it . The facts are just the opposite if these cats are remove of this environment this will cause a public health problem by raising the rat population that is enormous in Old San Juan.</p> <p>The cats of Old San Juan and Paseo del Morro are part of its history and culture. Also, that the emotional value that many have for the cats of Old San Juan is enormous . My family visited Puerto Rico and was impressed with their good experience with this cats. The tourists love them and they are an example for other communities.</p> <p>I think it's important that national parks invest wisely the funds in projects that are really necessary,not in a project like this one, expensive, unnecessary and prejudicial for the community.</p> <p>I am a witness of the corruption in the government of Puerto Rico and I would be suspicious if there is a particular who is going to be pleased for this nonsense and pretends the federal government pays for someone desires and pretentious.</p> <p>To finish, here's an article about the initiative of Houston's government that proved that take cats always is not the solution for the city.</p> <p>https://www.houstontx.gov/barc/trap_neuter_return.html</p>
486	<p>No estoy de acuerdo que saquen los gatos. Yo he pasado muchas veces, no hay mal olor, ellos son tranquilos, de hecho, dan vida y alegría al paseo lineal del Morro. Si insisten en sacarlos, tomen de ejemplo a países como España donde hay un lugar enorme donde llevan los gatos, los esterilizan y allí viven felices. Es un atractivo turístico. En Japón tambien hay un islote llamado la Isla de los Gatos. Hacen lo mismo. Aquí en Puerto Rico he visto cientos de terrenos abandonados por más de 30 años!!! ¿Porqué el gobierno no expropia (tengo entendido que hay una ley de estorbo público) y hace varios santuarios de gatos??? Hay dinero para sandeses como concursos de belleza y homenajes pero para un asunto de vital importancia para la ciudadanía entera siempre viene la excusa de que hay que darle prioridad a asuntos humanos. Lo siento, pero el humano en la mayoría de los casos se busca los problemas por no planificar. Los animales NO TIENEN CULPA de reproducirse, de buscar comida etc. Ellos no tienen culpa de haber nacido en la selva humana. El humano fue quien los trajo! Por otra parte, los gatos eliminan ratas, además ellos estierran sus escrementos. Si quieren seguir dañando la imagen de los puertorriqueños ante el mundo de que aquí en una isla tan pequeña es uno de los sitios donde más se maltratan a los animales, adelante!!! Eso que quieren hacer de eliminar gatos sumado a lo del zoológico de Mayaguez y a Cambalache, mas todos los casos que vemos a diario de maltrato animal, harán que los turistas no quieran venir a Puerto Rico!</p> <p>Por otra parte, las enfermedades de gatos transmisibles a humanos eso es si usted está constantemente por muchísimo tiempo en contacto con muchos gatos enfermos y no se protege. Imposible entonces que personas que caminen por el paseo estén a riesgo de</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>contagiarse con alguna enfermedad felina. Ni tan siquiera los tocan!! Más riesgo hay de contagiarse de enfermedades con amistades y la familia!!!</p> <p>Cuando mi esposo y yo paseamos por San Juan el único mal olor que hemos sentido es orín y escremento de humanos en las aceras por donde no hay gatos ni perros!!! Lo hacen algunos deambulantes, borrachos y gente puerca!!!</p> <p>Por último dudo mucho que las ratas se alimenten junto a los gatos. NO creo en ese censo!!! Yo tengo muchos gatos y jamás he visto tal cosa!!!</p>
487	<p>Dear SAJU Superintendent,</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for TNR, adoptable animal transport to areas where there is demand for adoption (such as within the mainland U.S.), and expanded low cost/no cost spay/neuter programs & education within Puerto Rico.</p> <p>TNR is the only humane and effective approach to managing community cats. Community cats live happy and healthy lives outdoors. However, since most community cats are not socialized or friendly to people, they cannot be adopted and live indoors, making community cats the most at-risk animals in shelters. They usually do not leave animal shelters alive. Catching and dumping OSJ's community cats into shelters will likely result in the mass killing of these cats.</p> <p>With much of Puerto Rico's population living below the poverty line, spay/neuter is inaccessible. Thus, unwanted cats are often dumped in Old San Juan or other areas of the island, as the perceived only viable alternative to humanely unload the burden of unwanted pets. Thus, education and access to low cost/no cost sterilization resources is key. Let's tackle the problem at its root, rather than band-aid the symptoms.</p> <p>I propose the National Park Service partner with local government, Save a Gato, and organizations like the Humane Society, to facilitate implementation of regular low cost/no cost spay/neuter initiatives in OSJ. This will reduce the effects of animal dumping and the burden on the underfunded, 100% volunteer group that is Save a Gato. This should be a catalyst to implementing low cost/no cost sterilization island wide, to truly address this problem once and for all. Education and access to sterilization resources will humanely curb the population of unwanted animals. Not catch and elimination. Not TNR without resources or support. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.</p> <p>Best,</p>
488	<p>Please stop the planning of removal or killing the cat community in the old San Juan, Puerto Rico. Thus cats don't harm no one and they been neuter and vaccinated by save a gato. They have spend a lot of money and effort doing something that not even the government or city does. Tourist cane a like this maybe we can be like the country Turkey they really understand life , they care about the animals and neuter them and vaccinated them too . We are all in this planet so we have to share our resources and spaces. Until humans develop and care for other planet we have to focus in this one and share with the habitat that is in surrounding us, in these case the animals(cats). Did you hear about the country that thought that cats 🐈 belong to witchcraft and made all of them kill. Then later all the rats 🐀 started to appear and</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>contagious all around even humans too. This when a great plague start killing millions in Europe. In other news that I read in Washington they have an infestation of rats and tge solution where feral cats that they bring, and the problem was resolved.</p> <p>Who ever wants to adopt a cat can do it or other wise they stay and clean the rats. You don't think there's rats around old San juan?. Ask the neighbors. There's many solutions but not kill an inoffensive animal that is just sleeping, eating and repeat.</p> <p>Thanks</p> <p>By the way I have 7 cats and feed the ones surrounding my neighborhood, plus when I have money at least one a month I TNR to stop the colonies and the unattended cats.</p> <p>This is a news headline from 2017. Jacob Fenston is WAMU's environment reporter.https://wamu.org/story/17/07/07/feral-cats-solve-d-c-s-rat-problem/ LOCAL NEWS JUL 7, 2017</p> <p>Could Feral Cats Solve D.C.'s Rat Problem?</p>
489	<p>No estoy de acuerdo que remuevan los gatos del Viejo San Juan. Ese es su hábitat y la organización SAVE A GATO se ha encargado de su esterilización, protocolos veterinarios, alimentación y cuidados.</p>
490	<p>The problem is not the cats, it's the humans who abandon them there. Yes, some are feral. My bet, most of them were thrown there. If you really want to solve this start enforcing more animal welfare laws. Maybe, strategically put cameras on the premises and catch people taking them there. As someone pointed out, talks about humanely removing cats, usually means killing them.</p> <p>I agree with the statement someone made in the Star Newspaper: "These cats don't bother anyone. I don't feed them, but I don't agree with killing them. If anything, they should be adopted."</p> <p>Also, get a commitment from the Mayor to do something. Municipalities need to take more ownership. I am sure he has money to spare.</p>
491	<p>Dear SAJU Superintendent,</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for TNR, adoptable animal transport to areas where there is demand for adoption (such as within the mainland U.S.), and expanded low cost/no cost spay/neuter programs & education within Puerto Rico.</p> <p>TNR is the only humane and effective approach to managing community cats. Community cats live happy and healthy lives outdoors. However, since most community cats are not socialized or friendly to people, they cannot be adopted and live indoors, making community cats the most at-risk animals in shelters. They usually do not leave animal shelters alive. Catching and dumping OSJ's community cats into shelters will likely result in the mass killing of these cats.</p> <p>Studies show TNR stabilizes community cat populations by stopping the breeding cycle, thereby improving cats' lives by relieving them of the constant stresses of mating and pregnancy, while also vaccinating them against rabies. TNR benefits the public by stopping disruptive mating behaviors like yowling, spraying, roaming, and fighting. TNR also saves</p>

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	<p>taxpayer money by reducing shelter intake, shelter euthanasia, and calls to animal control.</p> <p>Hundreds of communities have adopted an official TNR ordinance or policy, and thousands more conduct grassroots, volunteer-led programs, like Save a Gato. These numbers continue to rise as more communities realize the outdated approach of catching and killing cats is cruel and ineffective.</p> <p>Moreover, the proposed removal of the food bins along the Paseo will not effectively deter cats from the area. Feeding bans have been shown to be ineffective in decreasing community cat populations. These cats do not depend on people feeding them to survive. As scavengers, cats will find food in garbage cans and dumpsters. Cats are territorial, bonded to their surroundings, and will not leave simply because compassionate people can no longer legally feed them. Ultimately, a feeding ban will result in cats roaming farther to find food and digging through people's trash.</p> <p>Instead, expanding access on the island to low cost or no cost spay/neuter programs will greatly reduce the population of unwanted, abandoned animals flooding areas like OSJ where misguided individuals dump their cats, knowing someone else will care for them. This is not just a cat problem in OSJ, but a Commonwealth-wide problem of dumping unwanted cats and dogs. Indeed, there is an area on the south side of the island colloquially known as Dead Dog Beach, reflecting this practice and its unfortunate effects on the environment and the animals that are dumped.</p> <p>Studies show that in homes where the income was \$35,000 or higher, almost all cats (around 93%) were neutered, while 75% of unneutered cats live in homes where the income was less than \$35,000. (Data from alleycat.org). The lower-income owners who were interviewed primarily cited high cost as the reason for not sterilizing their cats.</p> <p>With much of Puerto Rico's population living below the poverty line, spay/neuter is inaccessible. Thus, unwanted cats are often dumped in Old San Juan or other areas of the island, as the perceived only viable alternative to humanely unload the burden of unwanted pets. Thus, education and access to low cost/no cost sterilization resources is key. Let's tackle the problem at its root, rather than band-aid the symptoms.</p> <p>I propose the National Park Service partner with local government, Save a Gato, and organizations like the Humane Society, to facilitate implementation of regular low cost/no cost spay/neuter initiatives in OSJ. This will reduce the effects of animal dumping and the burden on the underfunded, 100% volunteer group that is Save a Gato. This should be a catalyst to implementing low cost/no cost sterilization island wide, to truly address this problem once and for all. Education and access to sterilization resources will humanely curb the population of unwanted animals. Not catch and elimination. Not TNR without resources or support. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
492	<p>Que horror que en Puerto Rico la isla que me vio crecer se encuentre tanta crueldad, abandono y maltrato hacia esto hermosos e inocentes criaturas como son Los Gatos. Esos animales indefensos pasan hambre en un lugar donde tanta comida hay. Muchas personas se creen superiores a estos bellos y a tantos animalitos que solo ofrecen amor y</p>

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	<p>lealtad.</p> <p>Como pueden habitar tantas personas malvadas, egoístas y sin corazón. Me da dolor y vergüenza saber que estén planeando eliminar a estos seres con la excusa de que les estorban o ensucian. Si los que de verdad son puercos son las personas que no saben cuidar ni trabajar en la isla con decencia para superarse ellos mismos y a PR.</p> <p>Es triste ver tantos animalitos sufriendo y si ven otros lugares como Turquía que los habitantes los cuidan y aprecian la belleza y elegancia de Los Gatos callejeros.</p> <p>Hay que buscar la ley para su protección y nosotros somos esa voz, ya que ellos no se pueden defender.</p> <p>El humano se cree superior y no lo es. Los gatitos y todos los animalitos son el amor más puro y más cercano a Dios.</p> <p>Si yo tuviera el poder haría una ley en contra de todo aquel que se atreva hacerle daño a cualquier animalito y en especial a Los Gatos que son lo más bello que Puerto Rico posee!!!</p>
493	<p>I am writing to express my deep concern about the possible removal of community cats from Old San Juan.</p> <p>Community cats, also known as feral cats, are unowned cats who live happy and healthy lives outdoors. Contrary to popular belief, they are the same species as pet cats and pose no threat if left alone. This community of cats is well cared for by the people of Old San Juan and Save a Gato (SAG); a non-profit organization dedicated to the welfare of these cats through TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return), fostering, and adoption. Save A Gato has cared for and managed the colony of cats on the Paseo del Morro and the rest of Old San Juan for years with distinction and success.</p> <p>TNR is the only humane and effective approach to community cats. Since most community cats are not socialized around humans, the outdoors is the only proper home for them. During the process of TNR, community cats are humanely trapped and taken to a veterinarian to be spayed/neutered, vaccinated and ear tipped for identification. After recovering, they are returned to their outdoor home in Old San Juan.</p> <p>These cats have been part of the community for decades. In addition to their communal value, they are also a significant tourist attraction. Take for example the country of Turkey: Turks are famous for their love of animals and a rich culture of caring for their community cats in particular. Photos and videos of these cats playing and relaxing in their outdoor homes spread like wildfire on social media and have become both a tourist attraction and a sign of the brilliant love and humanity that Turkish culture fosters. Likewise, community cats are known locally to enjoy a very comfortable life in Puerto Rico, and this is something that we should amplify and share with the world.</p> <p>The area from which the cats are removed will be without cats for a short while. Other cats will replace them and this becomes an expensive cycle.</p> <p>The money should be spent on providing large scale spay and neuter programs throughout the island. The only way to decrease the number of stray, and abandoned animals is for veterinarians on the island working with the federal and local government.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
494	<p>Leave those cats alone. They have lived there for so many years and nobody has ever complained. They are well taken care of and help control mice and rats in San Juan. Why kill a living being when we have laws against animal cruelty?! This is beyond CRUEL. Let them be please.</p>
495	<p>¡Los gatos 🐱 se esteriliza y se 🩺 pero que van hacer cuando eliminen los gatos y no hayan quien controle la población de ratas! Ratas 🐭 pariendo por docenas sin poder controlar la población. En el Viejo San Juan hay túneles y la población de ratas con tantos</p>

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	restaurantes sería ideal vivir y multiplicarse para cuando les eliminen los gatos. A las ratas no las puede esterilizar, ni  entonces sí que van a tener un grave problema: La peste bubónica es una infección bacteriana grave transmitida principalmente por las pulgas. El organismo que provoca la peste bubónica, Yersinia pestis, vive en los pequeños roedores 
496	When we visit Hawaii we look forward to all tapestry of the roosters . In Puerto Rico we look forward to the kaleidoscope of cats. Keep the cats safe and protect them from harms way.
497	Definitely against this measure. I heard of in these times. These animals are well kept and care. They do not pose any threat or safety concern. The cats population help tremendously to keep down the population of rodents on any community. We love animals and wish to keep the life of these animals in our city. We dot understand the sudden apparition of this unrational proclamation. We hope it is immediately canceled and discarded since no harm is being created for these animals have been here with us for as long as I can remember without no complain until now. What is really behind this? Who is the promoter of this cruel idea?
498	Mis comentarios se basan en mi experiencia pasando por el paseo y respondiendo a unos comentarios hechos por la organizacion "Save a Gato" las cuales encuentro erroneas con relación a que los turistas les gusta ver a los gatos. Pienso que es todo lo contrario por el hecho de que en ese paseo lo primero que uno siente es el mal olor a excrementos de gatos los cuales tambien se encuentran en el area. Para mi fue completamente desagradable. Tambien el otro comentario de que se multiplicaran las plagas de cucarachas y ratones sin contemplar que precisamente lo que atraen a los ratones y las cucarachas son los contenedores de comida que les tienen a los gatos los cuales tambien alimentan a los ratones y se multiplican las cucarachas. Todo esto es una cuestion de salud publica. Esa no es un area para tener una plaga de gatos que es lo que actualmente existe. Si la organizacion no quiere que sacrifiquen a los gatos que se los lleven para sus hogares para ver si pueden soportar el mal olor a excremento de gatos. Como dije anteriormente esto es una cuestion de salud publica y no de si unos gatos se ven bonitos en San Juan.
499	No estoy de acuerdo se retiren los gatos del Paseo . Estos viven ahí hace años. Se han convertido en un atractivo turístico Los gatos han sido bien cuidados por los voluntarios de SAGSAG y los vecinos de Sag. Y por vecinos. He sido testigo de turistas felicitando por ayudar a los gatos El gato es un animal limpio y guarda sus desechos. Además no ataca a la gente. Son vacunados y esteriza dos. No creo que haya un problema ambiental pues no se sienten olores. La lluvia limpia todo, además los voluntarios limpian las áreas de alimentación. No encuentro ninguna razón salvo que será un acto cruel e inhumano. Los gatos no se acostumbran a nuevos ambientes fácilmente.
500	Primeramente, "asesino excedente" es un concepto que no puede aplicarse a los gatos. El uso del lenguaje en este caso tiene una clara intencionalidad de casi demonizar su presencia en San Juan. En segundo lugar, el tema de salubridad evidentemente no considera los beneficios de la presencia de los gatos. El plan de manejo es simplista en el sentido de que, con remover los gatos, pareciera que se resuelve todo. Pero todos sabemos que no es así, eliminar la población de gatos implicaría un aumento sustancial en la población de ratas, que también transmiten enfermedades y de seguro, los olores que generen no serán placenteros. Algunas de estas declaraciones incluso tienen parecido a la matanza de gatos que desembocó en la peste bubónica en Europa... Y finalmente, basta de desplazamientos. El argumento de que a algunos turistas les incomoda la presencia de los gatos... bueno, hay turistas a los que

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	<p>les incomoda la presencia de los puertorriqueños y esa no es razón para expropiar a todos los puertorriqueños de la ciudad. No hay que acomodándonos a las expectativas de los turistas o extranjeros. Basta de la apropiación de nuestros espacios.</p>
501	<p>Primeramente, &quot;asesino excedente&quot; es un concepto que no puede aplicarse a los gatos. El uso del lenguaje en este caso tiene una clara intencionalidad de casi demonizar su presencia en San Juan. En segundo lugar, el tema de salubridad evidentemente no considera los beneficios de la presencia de los gatos. El plan de manejo es simplista en el sentido de que, con remover los gatos, pareciera que se resuelve todo. Pero todos sabemos que no es así, eliminar la población de gatos implicaría un aumento sustancial en la población de ratas, que también transmiten enfermedades y de seguro, los olores que generen no serán placenteros. Algunas de estas declaraciones incluso tienen parecido a la matanza de gatos que desembocó en la peste bubónica en Europa... Y finalmente, basta de desplazamientos. El argumento de que a algunos turistas les incomoda la presencia de los gatos... bueno, hay turistas a los que les incomoda la presencia de los puertorriqueños y esa no es razón para expropiar a todos los puertorriqueños de la ciudad. No hay que acomodarnos a las expectativas de los turistas o extranjeros. Basta de la apropiación de nuestros espacios.</p>
502	<p>Hello, I'm commenting here because as a former citizen of Puerto Rico I want to express my deep concern and sadness at the consideration of mass euthanasia as a possible &quot;solution&quot; regarding the cat population in Old San Juan. These animals deserve better treatment from the National Park Service. Please consider working with other local groups dedicated to animal rescue efforts.</p>
503	<p>Hi,</p> <p>The cats in old San Juan city are part of the history. They were bring from Spain to San Juan to control pests. They live for decades in the city. If want to control the population, neuter and control current population. Kill.the cats do not solve the overpopulation, eventually you will have the cats because they live across the city.</p>
504	<p>Dear SAJU Superintendent,</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for TNR, adoptable animal transport to areas where there is demand for adoption (such as within the mainland U.S.), and expanded low cost/no cost spay/neuter programs & education within Puerto Rico.</p> <p>TNR is the only humane and effective approach to managing community cats. Community cats live happy and healthy lives outdoors. However, since most community cats are not socialized or friendly to people, they cannot be adopted and live indoors, making community cats the most at-risk animals in shelters. They usually do not leave animal shelters alive. Catching and dumping OSJ's community cats into shelters will likely result in the mass killing of these cats.</p> <p>Studies show TNR stabilizes community cat populations by stopping the breeding cycle, thereby improving cats' lives by relieving them of the constant stresses of mating and pregnancy, while also vaccinating them against rabies. TNR benefits the public by stopping disruptive mating behaviors like yowling, spraying, roaming, and fighting. TNR also saves taxpayer money by reducing shelter intake, shelter euthanasia, and calls to animal control.</p> <p>Hundreds of communities have adopted an official TNR ordinance or policy, and thousands more conduct grassroots, volunteer-led programs, like Save a Gato. These numbers continue</p>

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	<p>to rise as more communities realize the outdated approach of catching and killing cats is cruel and ineffective.</p> <p>Moreover, the proposed removal of the food bins along the Paseo will not effectively deter cats from the area. Feeding bans have been shown to be ineffective in decreasing community cat populations. These cats do not depend on people feeding them to survive. As scavengers, cats will find food in garbage cans and dumpsters. Cats are territorial, bonded to their surroundings, and will not leave simply because compassionate people can no longer legally feed them. Ultimately, a feeding ban will result in cats roaming farther to find food and digging through people's trash.</p> <p>Instead, expanding access on the island to low cost or no cost spay/neuter programs will greatly reduce the population of unwanted, abandoned animals flooding areas like OSJ where misguided individuals dump their cats, knowing someone else will care for them. This is not just a cat problem in OSJ, but a Commonwealth-wide problem of dumping unwanted cats and dogs. Indeed, there is an area on the south side of the island colloquially known as Dead Dog Beach, reflecting this practice, and its unfortunate effects on the environment and the animals that are dumped.</p> <p>Studies show that in homes where the income was \$35,000 or higher, almost all cats (around 93%) were neutered, while 75% of unneutered cats live in homes where the income was less than \$35,000. (Data from alleycat.org). The lower-income owners who were interviewed primarily cited high cost as the reason for not sterilizing their cats.</p> <p>With much of Puerto Rico's population living below the poverty line, spay/neuter is inaccessible. Thus, unwanted cats are often dumped in Old San Juan or other areas of the island, as the perceived only viable alternative to humanely unload the burden of unwanted pets. Thus, education and access to low cost/no cost sterilization resources is key. Let's tackle the problem at its root, rather than band-aid the symptoms. Without a cultural change, neither TNR nor elimination programs will actually resolve the problem NPS seeks to address.</p> <p>I propose the National Park Service partner with local government, Save a Gato, and organizations like the Humane Society, to facilitate implementation of regular low cost/no cost spay/neuter initiatives in OSJ. This will reduce the effects of animal dumping and the burden on the underfunded, 100% volunteer group that is Save a Gato. This should be a catalyst to implementing low cost/no cost sterilization island wide, to truly address this problem once and for all. Education and access to sterilization resources will humanely curb the population of unwanted animals. Not catch and elimination. Not TNR without resources or support.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
505	<p>Estoy de acuerdo con el asunto del impacto de gatos realengos sobre la vida silvestre y opino que los gatos necesitan mantenerse adentro de un hogar en la medida en que sea posible. Mi preocupación es que el proceso de remoción ocasione más problemas que beneficios, ya que mi experiencia viviendo en Puerto Rico por 23 años me demostró que, culturalmente, mucha gente ve los gatos como un estorbo y prefieren que los sacrifiquen a todos por igual en lugar de ser diligentes en conseguirles hogares a los que son más sociales con humanos. Estoy</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>segura que Save a Gato hace lo que puede con los recursos limitados que tienen; quizás es el momento de reevaluar el Memorando de Entendimiento con la organización y buscar otras alternativas que apoyen el bienestar de los gatos realengos en el Sitio Nacional Histórico de San Juan, además de proveer más educación a la población general sobre estos animales por qué merecen un trato humano.</p>
506	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing in relation to the devastating news that the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service is developing plans to manage-control-eliminate the historic cat colony that inhabits Paseo del Morro in Old San Juan.</p> <p>I'd like to start this letter by quoting from Gandhi, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."</p> <p>Please let that sink in for a moment.</p> <p>You see, it is a well known fact that Puerto Rico has suffered from a crisis of abandoned animals for decades. Which as an animal rescuer myself is not only heartbreaking, but frustrating in light of the beauty of the country and the people.</p> <p>However, it has been the hard work of a select few brave individuals and organizations - such as the AMAZING organization Save a Gato - that progress has and is being made on a daily basis to rescue, rehabilitate, and control feral cat communities.</p> <p>The cats of Paseo del Morro are NOT abandoned, they are sterilized and look after by this wonderful organization and its volunteers.</p> <p>These cats also provide many benefits, such as control of rodent populations, joy, and a reminder of the unique bond between humans and animals.</p> <p>They are also a unique symbol of Old San Juan.</p> <p>In my recently published children's picture book THE TREE OF HOPE, which is inspired by the miraculous rescue of the famous jagüey blanco by the San Juan Gate after Hurricane Maria, there are many images of Old San Juan and cats are featured in many of the scenes.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>Because they are part of the fabric that makes the city so special!</p> <p>When I visit schools to read the book, all the way from Puerto Rico to the USA to the UK - children identify them immediately and are so excited to know that cats live in the city.</p> <p>Therefore, I am writing in hopes that the Department of the Interior and National Park Service will reconsider its position to eliminate the cat colonies of Paseo del Morro.</p> <p>And in fact, consider instead offering financial support to organizations, such as Save a Gato, so they can continue the BRILLIANT work they are currently doing.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Thank you kindly,
507	<p>Los gatos llevan años de estigmas, en el año 1241 la Iglesia Católica ordenó eliminarlos por asociarlos con brujería, esa creencia aún se siente en la actualidad. Los gatos al igual que otros animales incluyendo los humanos se contagian de enfermedades que pueden resultar en transmisión. Ahora bien, ¿ha ocurrido algún caso de ataque o contagio de enfermedad en algún ciudadano o turista? Si lo que preocupa es el turismo cabe señalar que a nivel mundial existen lugares visitados por turistas simplemente por la existencia de gatos. En Japón existe una isla de gatos visitada por miles de turistas, en Estambul es esencial proteger, cuidar y alimentar gatos en zonas turísticas, y así sucesivamente alrededor del mundo. Es de conocimiento que los gatos no extinguen la población de ratas, pero sin las controlan. Los gatos del Viejo San Juan llevan años siendo cuidados y alimentados por la fundación Save a Gato, sin ayuda del gobierno, sólo voluntarios con el interés de proveer lo que carecen. Llevan más de 20 años bajo su cuidado, ¿y ahora es que ustedes se dan cuenta que son un estorbo por las razones que mencionan en su boletín? No hay argumento que sustente su remoción, más que un mero capricho de su agencia. Ya de por sí ellos tienen una vida de sufrimiento, a pesar de ello este tipo de fundación le hace la vida menos complicada, entonces su agencia busca exterminarlos del área, no es justo para los gatos, menos para quién rinden labor voluntaria en búsqueda de su bienestar. Me opongo a su plan por los detalles antes descritos.</p>
508	<p>No estoy de acuerdo con lo que le quieren hacer a los gatos, ellos no molestan ni hacen nada a nadie. Tanto tiempo esos gatos en San Juan y ahora quieren venir a sacarlos. Cuál es la excusa, esto no es humanitario ni nada por el estilo, esto es un abuso. Dejen a esos gatos tranquilos, no les hacen nada a nadie.</p>
509	<p>Dear SAJU Superintendent,</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for TNR, adoptable animal transport to areas where there is demand for adoption (such as within the mainland U.S.), and expanded low cost/no cost spay/neuter programs & education within Puerto Rico.</p> <p>TNR is the only humane and effective approach to managing community cats. Community cats live happy and healthy lives outdoors. However, since most community cats are not socialized or friendly to people, they cannot be adopted and live indoors, making community cats the most at-risk animals in shelters. They usually do not leave animal shelters alive. Catching and dumping OSJ's community cats into shelters will likely result in the mass killing of these cats.</p> <p>Studies show TNR stabilizes community cat populations by stopping the breeding cycle, thereby improving cats' lives by relieving them of the constant stresses of mating and pregnancy, while also vaccinating them against rabies. TNR benefits the public by stopping disruptive mating behaviors like yowling, spraying, roaming, and fighting. TNR also saves taxpayer money by reducing shelter intake, shelter euthanasia, and calls to animal control.</p> <p>Hundreds of communities have adopted an official TNR ordinance or policy, and thousands more conduct grassroots, volunteer-led programs, like Save a Gato. These numbers continue to rise as more communities realize the outdated approach of catching and killing cats is cruel and ineffective.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Moreover, the proposed removal of the food bins along the Paseo will not effectively deter cats from the area. Feeding bans have been shown to be ineffective in decreasing community cat populations. These cats do not depend on people feeding them to survive. As scavengers, cats will find food in garbage cans and dumpsters. Cats are territorial, bonded to their surroundings, and will not leave simply because compassionate people can no longer legally feed them. Ultimately, a feeding ban will result in cats roaming farther to find food and digging through people's trash.</p> <p>Instead, expanding access on the island to low cost or no cost spay/neuter programs will greatly reduce the population of unwanted, abandoned animals flooding areas like OSJ where misguided individuals dump their cats, knowing someone else will care for them. This is not just a cat problem in OSJ, but a Commonwealth-wide problem of dumping unwanted cats and dogs. Indeed, there is an area on the south side of the island colloquially known as Dead Dog Beach, reflecting this practice and its unfortunate effects on the environment and the animals that are dumped.</p> <p>Studies show that in homes where the income was \$35,000 or higher, almost all cats (around 93%) were neutered, while 75% of unneutered cats live in homes where the income was less than \$35,000. (Data from alleycat.org). The lower-income owners who were interviewed primarily cited high cost as the reason for not sterilizing their cats.</p> <p>With much of Puerto Rico's population living below the poverty line, spay/neuter is inaccessible. Thus, unwanted cats are often dumped in Old San Juan or other areas of the island, as the perceived only viable alternative to humanely unload the burden of unwanted pets. Thus, education and access to low cost/no cost sterilization resources is key. Let's tackle the problem at its root, rather than band-aid the symptoms.</p> <p>I propose the National Park Service partner with local government, Save a Gato, and organizations like the Humane Society, to facilitate implementation of regular low cost/no cost spay/neuter initiatives in OSJ. This will reduce the effects of animal dumping and the burden on the underfunded, 100% volunteer group that is Save a Gato. This should be a catalyst to implementing low cost/no cost sterilization island wide, to truly address this problem once and for all. Education and access to sterilization resources will humanely curb the population of unwanted animals. Not catch and elimination. Not TNR without resources or support. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
510	<p>The cats that have been living in the city of San Juan for many years are not a threat to the community or the park in question. They are not considered invasive species and had help diminish the amount of rats that lure in the area hence diminishing the chance of getting infected with leptospirosis. They are also been maintained and taking care of by the non profit organization named Saveagato. This organization is lowering the over population of these cats through TNR (trap, neuter,release) and continue to care for them afterwards by proving food, water and annual vaccines. Some of them if they are social enough are put in adoption or are sent to the US for a chance of getting adopted too. This organization and many more that help only operate mostly through donations that people from the community give, not a single help from the movement itself. It would be helpful if the government funded the saveagato organization that would advance the TNR program and with the</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>community also helping by fostering or adopting these cats will diminish unnecessary reproduction hence more cats in the city. Some of the issue I had heard is the cats doing their necessities (urine and fecal) all over the place. Cats usually poop i the dirt and cover it (is an instinct) and the urinate to mark territory. Thats why the TNR program is important because after being castrated they don't have the need to mark territory and become less aggressive hence not a threat (mostly in males). Getting &quot;rid of them&quot; (i put it on quotes because the demandant does not explain the way they are going to do it) will not solve the issue and would result in more animal abandonment that PR is usually experiencing right now. This an issue that the government and the community should work together not just these organizations taking all the responsibility of these cats and the people that abandon them. There should be free workshops at least 1-2 time a month were people can access and learn information about how TNR works, how does it benefits the cats and mostly the community in which these cats resided, how can the contribute to these organizations (donations, volunteer works), the negative side of animal abandonment and how you can process somebody that is doing it with the Law 54 (and know how that law works), etc. These workshop should also be included in school and even in the police academy program. In conclusion, these cats are part of the San Juan City community and removing them because of them just living there, being vaccinated and neutered is an act of crime. That would only cause so much stress to the animal and all the progress that saveagato a many more organizations would be thrown to the trash, so much money, work and dedication all these years would be for nothing.</p>
511	<p>Los gatos no tienen ningún propósito de ser dormidos solo porque son un estorbo, en todo caso el estorbo seriamos nosotros, quienes tomamos todo para nosotros autoritariamente sin nada para compartir. La mayoría de los gatos son cuidados por residentes del viejo San Juan. Sin mencionar que los animales siempre le han dado un toque estético y ambiental a el lugar. Apoyó que sigan allí y que no se les haga daño.</p>
512	<p>Hola. Tengo 11 anos. Es la hogar de los gatos! Ellos son mi mejor amigos. Yo no soy muy popular un mi escuela porque yo me gusta los libros y matematicas. A los gatos no le important. Son mis amigos. Tu es especie invasora!!! Los gatos no hacen dano, y no tenemos los ratones porque tenemos los gatos. A save a gato y el comminidad le cuidad y tu no haces nada porque quieres hacer esto? Y los turistas les aman a los preciosos gatos.</p> <p>.</p> <p>Hello. I am 11 years old. this is the home of the cats! They are my best friends. I am not very popular in my school because I like books and math. The cats don't care. They are my friends. You are the invasive species!!!! The cats do not harm a soul and in old san juan we don't have rats because we have the cats. Save a gato and the community take care of them and you do nothing so why are you doing this? And the tourists love the cats.</p>
513	<p>Un momento, ¿esos gatos no están protegidos por el gobierno? Pensé que el Viejo San Juan había sido declarado santuario para esos gatos. Además ellos son descendentes de los gatos que los españoles trajeron a la isla en el siglo 15. Esos gatos se pueden decir que son históricos. Esterilizaron y suéltalos pero no los maten por favor.</p>
514	<p>Please do not hurt these incredible animals, this is an absolutely horrifying idea. These are beautiful, feeling beings who deserve respect and care. I am absolutely opposed to hurting these cats. Please stop this!</p>
515	<p>Wow increíble tanta alma negra. Tuve unas amistades de Virginia y cuándo fuimos al viejo San Juan lo lro qué me preguntaron 'Donde están los gatos?'&quot;... Así de famosos son...</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
516	Please find another solution, these cats are an icon in SJ and many countries have this situation and are approaching it differently. See the cats in the coloseo in Rome as an example! In the past a sterilization program was implemented to control the birth rate, recommend this be reinstated and through time and as they pass the number of cats will reduce. No ...to killing them! That is not an acceptable solution.
517	The proposal to remove the cats from El Viejo San Juan ignores three very important realities. First, the cats are a huge tourist attraction and are now an integral part of the experience of Old San Juan. Second, the cats have been taken care off tirelessly for at least two decades by incredible organizations like Save a Gato, who not only feed and provide medical care to the cats, but also contribute massively to population control efforts with their spaying/neutering and adoption programs, so, unlike what has been suggested, there are no immediate overpopulation or other health concerns that need to be addressed with such extrme measures as the ones being proposed. Three, the cats are also part of the ecosystem and control the spread of invasive species like rats and mice. Evidently, any plan to remove these animals is not only short-sighted and disconnected from the actual effect these cats have on Old San Juan, but could also have catastrophic consequences. Our cats deserve to live freely and at peace, as they have done for decades.
518	Desde la Florida les escribo para abogar por todos los gatos que son parte de Puerto Rico. Ellos, como todos los animales merecen que los cuidemos. Fueron creados para adornar nuestros días con su cariño y alegrarnos al compartir nuestras vidas. Salvémoslo y ayúdenos a crear conciencia y responsabilidad de cuidar de ellos que son parte de nuestras familias. Cuidémonos nuestro planeta y todo lo que hace de un mundo hermoso.
519	Please don't remove the cats. They are part of old San Juan. They control the rats and without them San Juan it's going to have a big problem. They don't hurt anybody. And the organization save a gato bring them food and castration to them. They are part of old San Juan Culture. I love to see them when I visit old San Juan.
520	<p>Muy respetuosamente me opongo a la remoción, eutanimación, y cualquier otra medida en perjuicio de los gatos del Viejo San Juan y del Paseo del Morro. Las leyes deben proteger a los animales, igualmente la sensibilidad, quien aborrece y lastima a los gatos poco dice de su calidad humana. Además, los gatos son animales limpios, nobles y protegen de plagas como ratas, ratones y cucarachas, en especial en áreas costeras y con muelles. En muchos países y ciudades de avanzada, por ejemplo Estambul, se respeta a los gatos, y mantienen libre la ciudad de esas plagas. Me opongo como residente de San Juan y como ser humano al desalojo de los gatos. Además, la mayoría son esterilizados y atendidos por grupos como Safe a Gato. No podemos permitir que nuevas modas, comerciales, turísticas o de nuevos inmigrantes humanos pretendan por mezquindad sacar a los gatos, que estaban antes en San Juan. Me niego y protesto, la vida de los gatos se respeta, quien ama a los animales y los protege es un mejor ser humano.</p> <p>I very respectfully oppose the removal, euthanization, and any other measure to the detriment of the cats of Old San Juan and Paseo del Morro. The laws must protect animals, as well as sensitivity, who hates and hurts cats says little about their human quality. In addition, cats are clean, noble animals and protect against pests such as rats, mice and cockroaches, especially in coastal and dock areas. In many advanced countries and cities, for example Istanbul, cats are respected, and they keep the city free from these pests. I oppose as a San Juan resident and as a human being the eviction of the cats. In addition, most are sterilized and cared for by groups such as Safe a Gato. We cannot allow that new fashions, commercial, tourist or new</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	human immigrants pretend out of pettiness to take out the cats, which were previously in San Juan. I refuse and protest, the life of cats is respected, whoever loves animals and protects them is a better human being.
521	Los animales son vidas iguales a las nuestras, este mundo también es de ellos y tienen el mismo derecho a vivir en él. Respeten a los animales. Matarlos es un crimen. Ellos sienten igual que nosotros. Dejen en paz a los gatos del Paseo del Morro. Ya basta de especismo. Busquen una alternativa para el bien de ellos. Todo lo que es vida merece ser respetado. Respeten a los animales.
522	Esterilizar, no matar!!! Son súper mansos 😊
523	The cats are well treated and healthy in Old San Juan. They are part of the Old San Juan community and it is their home. They should not be removed. We will fight for their well-being. Humans are the administrator of earth and cats are part of earth. Shame on the ones that are trying to make their life miserable.
524	No estoy de acuerdo con la remoción de los gatos del viejo San Juan. Yo soy una ciudadana que aporta dinero a la organización que allí les protege con amor y empatía. Hay que buscar alternativas para mantener a salvo los gatos.
525	As a visitor to Old San Juan, I support the work carried out by the Save a Cat organization and I want the cats to continue there. They are part of the tourist experience.
526	No estoy de acuerdo que los maten, yo patrocino entidades que se ocupan de darles calidad de vida, el gobierno de Puerto Rico es maltratante con los animales, insensibles y crueles
527	Please do not kill the cats in old San Juan. They are part of the city as much as anything else.
528	Hello! I think that cats should not be removed from El Paseo del Morro in Old San Juan. Instead, the cat population should be controlled with trap, neuter and release program. Cats should be taken care of, not euthanized. They are lovely animals, very special. Let them live.
529	Hi, Please take action and remove all cats and feeding stations, it is not pleasant to walk the paseo with the unbearable smell, these cats do not bring any benefit, they only bring joy to the inconsiderate people that feed the cats, please take action in removing feeding stations and all the cats so that anyone can pleasantly enjoy the Paseo. Thanks,
530	No to the removal of cats, these animals do no harm, tourists and other people accept them, so why the bad action? There are a few who are not interested in the welfare of any animal and therefore act incorrectly, what is worse cats or the plague of mice that will open if the cats are taken?
531	I am writing to express my deep concern about the possible removal of community cats from Old San Juan. Community cats, also known as feral cats, are unowned cats who live happy and healthy lives outdoors. Contrary to popular belief, they are the same species as pet cats and pose no threat if left alone. This community of cats is well cared for by the people of Old San Juan and Save a Gato (SAG); a non-profit organization dedicated to the welfare of these cats through TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return), fostering, and adoption. Save A Gato has cared for and managed the colony of cats on the Paseo del Morro and the rest of Old San Juan for years with distinction

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>and success.</p> <p>TNR is the only humane and effective approach to community cats. Since most community cats are not socialized around humans, the outdoors is the only proper home for them. During the process of TNR, community cats are humanely trapped and taken to a veterinarian to be spayed/neutered, vaccinated and ear tipped for identification. After recovering, they are returned to their outdoor home in Old San Juan.</p> <p>These cats have been part of the community for decades. In addition to their communal value, they are also a significant tourist attraction. Take for example the country of Turkey: Turks are famous for their love of animals and a rich culture of caring for their community cats in particular. Photos and videos of these cats playing and relaxing in their outdoor homes spread like wildfire on social media and have become both a tourist attraction and a sign of the brilliant love and humanity that Turkish culture fosters. Likewise, community cats are known locally to enjoy a very comfortable life in Puerto Rico, and this is something that we should amplify and share with the world.</p>
532	<p>Removing cats from the streets of Old San Juan and el Morro is not a solution. Puertorricans will take care or repopulating the area with new cats in no time by dumping their unwanted pets. I say that as a puertorrican myself.</p> <p>The only proven method of managing outdoor cat colonies is TNR. DO YOUR RESEARCH!!</p> <p>Besides, this cat colony is a tourist attraction in an of itself.</p> <p>If you are so concerned, put your funds towards cleaning the area. While you're at it, how about cleaning/disinfecting the garitas of El Morro that reek of HUMAN urine? Or perhaps you should plan to relocate/eliminate the humans from the area, following your logic.</p>
533	<p>Me opongo tenazmente al plan de manejo de gatos realengos propuesto por El Sitio Histórico Nacional de San Juan. Lo gatos realengos del Viejo San Juan ya están siendo manejados adecuada y humanamente. Los argumentos para impulsar el nuevo plan de manejo de gatos realengos por parte de El Sitio Histórico Nacional de San Juan son sumamente debatibles, dejan fuera de consideración muchos datos relevantes y además, están expresados de una forma tal que demuestra un claro interés de manipular en lugar de informar.</p>
534	<p>No estoy de acuerdo con sacar los gatos del viejo San Juan, sin una alternativa viable de relocalizacion. Eutanizarlos no es una alternativa.</p>
535	<p>I am against the removal of the cats if san juan. These cats are being taken care of by Save a Gato & some residents.</p>
536	<p>Buenos Días,</p> <p>soy una Puertorriqueña que se mudó a Tejas, pero no me he olvidado de mi país. Cuando chiquita me recuerdo ir por el viejo San Juan a contar los gatitos que vivían ahí con mis padres. Son parte de la magia del viejo San Juan tanto como las Palomas, y no deberían ser removidos de su hogar y matados sin razón alguna. No solamente es cruel, pero quitaría una experiencia turística que es tan importante para Puerto Rico. Un día espero regresar a mi país con mis padres y contar los gatitos otra vez, por favor les pido que no hagan esto, no solamente por mi y los otros turistas y los niños pero por los gatitos que han encontrado hogar ahí, estos gatos están operados, vacunados y alimentados por la comunidad.</p> <p>Good day,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>I'm a Puerto Rican that has moved to Texas, but I haven't forgotten about my home country. When I was little I remember going to San Juan to count the cats that lived there with my parents. They are part of the magic of San Juan just as much as the pigeons, and they should not be removed from their home and killed without reason. Not only is this cruel, but it would take away to the tourist experience that is so important to Puerto Rico. One day I hope to return to my country with my parents to count the cats again, I beg of you; do not do this not only for me and the other tourists and children but for the kittens that have found a home there. These cats are fixed, vaccinated and fed by the community.</p>
537	<p>Gracias al esfuerzo de la organización de San Juan que se dedica a la esterilización de Los Gatos y su cuidado, en San Juan se respira aire limpio y se ven gatos saludable. Es admirable su labor y su amor a la capital de San Juan y sus habitantes. Esta organización lo hace con mucho esfuerzo y entiendo que tienen el apoyo de los residentes del Viejo San Juan. Les pido a este grupo no residente de San Juan de no culminar con las vidas de un grupo residente de la capital de San Juan.</p>
538	<p>Buenas tardes: Quiero expresar mi sentir en cuanto al tema de el recogido de gatos en El Viejo San Juan. Que injusticia tan grande. Esos gatitos no le hacen daño a nadie, viven felices en el Viejo San Juan y gracias a los voluntarios de Save a Gato, muchos han sido vacunados y esterilizados. Save a Gato ha hecho una excelente labor cuidando, alimentando y esterilizando a todos los gatos que gente inescrupulosa abandonan a su suerte. Hacen el trabajo que debería hacer el Gobierno. Muchos turistas vienen a visitar el Viejo San Juan y les encanta admirar y tomar fotografías con esos gatos! No podemos permitir esta masacre, ellos son seres inocentes y tienen derecho a vivir. Nosotros somos su voz y vamos a dar la batalla por ellos. Por favor, reconsideren esa decisión tan absurda. Esperamos que tomen en cuenta nuestras opiniones.</p>
539	<p>Please do not remove the cats from Old San Juan. I have seen them and this is their home and has been for many years.</p>
540	<p>I am completely against the euthanization of the cats in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The organization Save A Gato has been controlling the cat colony for some time now, and their efforts at providing care and helping to control the stray cat population have been successful. To suddenly kill all of the cats on the whim of a few selfish individuals is cruel. Those cats do not pose a health risk to any of the residents of Old San Juan and they have a minimal impact on the flora and the fauna. There needs to be a better way that to just murder them all.</p>
541	<p>A mi me encanta pasear por San Juan sobre todo porque soy amantes a los gatos. Tengo una gatita en casa y la amo muchísimo. Los gatos de SJ son un amor, me encanta pasar por su área para contemplarlos. Están muy bien cuidados, alimentados, esterilizados y no le hacen daño a nadie, al contrario llaman la atención de los turistas. Ellos ya son parte del turismo en PR. Les harían mucho daño cambiarlos del hábitat al que están acostumbrados.</p>
542	<p>Me encantaría ir a Puerto Rico, y visitar estos lindos gatitos. Pronto los visitaré. En Estados Unidos son muy famosos, y se habla mucho de ellos. Es algo típico, clásico y hermoso de su bello Puerto Rico. Saludos y bendiciones!!! 🙏😊🐱🐱❤️❤️❤️</p>
543	<p>No creo que vayan a remover a los gatos para entregarlos a los albergues, ya que en los albergues los matan tan pronto llegan. Además, los pocos Santuarios que hay "no killer" están llenos. Los gatos de San Juan no le hacen daño a nadie al contrario los turistas, residentes y los que visitamos al Viejo San Juan nos encanta verlos, tocarlos y darles comida. Ellos están felices en libertad y en su hábitat. Por favor no los saquen de ahí.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Además, los voluntarios de Save a Gato se desviven por ellos y los cuidan. No sé a qué persona se le ocurrió esto tratar de sacarlos. Estoy en contra de que los saquen de su hogar. Noooo
544	No creo que vayan a remover a los gatos para entregarlos a los albergues, ya que en los albergues los matan tan pronto llegan. Además, los pocos Santuarios que hay non killer están llenos. Los gatos de San Juan no le hacen daño a nadie al contrario los turistas, residentes y los que visitamos al Viejo San Juan nos encanta verlos, tocarlos y darles comida. Ellos están felices en libertad y en su hábitat. Por favor no los saquen de ahí. Además, los voluntarios de Save a Gato se desviven por ellos y los cuidan. No sé a qué persona se le ocurrió esto tratar de sacarlos. Estoy en contra de que los saquen de su hogar. Noooo
545	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am following this story and am horrified to know this. These animals bring joy and happiness and have resided there peacefully for so many, many years without consequence, to the contrary, they have made happy the many visitors to the island, and as well, the people living on the island.</p> <p>It is not enough that they wound up alone in this cruel world, now thru no fault of their own, they will be killed.</p> <p>It is a great sin, heartbreaking and unacceptable. I have taken the liberty of advocating for these innocent creatures and have written to several organizations on their behalf.</p> <p>If this is to proceed, there will be definite consequences.</p> <p>This is a blatant disregard for life, it is our duty to support and advocate and protect all of God's creatures as they depend on us as a whole on this earth for their very lives.</p> <p>To remove them or to extinguish them for any other reason other than if their were very sick ones that would contaminate the others and cause direct harm, to follow through with this plan of action would be cruelty beyond measure and highly unacceptable to the people of Puerto Rico and beyond the island...</p> <p>I have yet to find evidence of these animals causing any such harm to the human population that visit them daily, therefore this is being done as further punishment to these animals who have suffered enough being denied love and family.</p> <p>A program must be established to use a "Catch and Release" policy, this will allow the cats already living there to stay and live out the remainder of their natural lives in peace and stop them from further breeding.</p> <p>Your government is responsible to maintain the natural habitat of these animals without the threat of destroying them.</p> <p>If your local government will do nothing to help facilitate the preservation of these animals, I will forward this matter to the Animal Protection League as well. Someone must help fund this catch and release program.</p> <p>I am requesting that my letter be placed in the hands of those that are making these cruel</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>decisions about these cats and that I receive a response in writing as to the decision of their fate as immediately as possible so that I can supply the various agencies contacted, documentation as to what is now transpiring with these animals before it is too late.</p> <p>I do have personal contacts in said organizations, agencies and will take this matter to them personally which will have, as mentioned, serious consequences for anyone that would proceed with euthanizing these animals.</p> <p>I thank you in advance for your anticipated assistance in forwarding my letter and look very much forward to hearing back from the person(s) in charge of this plan of action.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and allowing me to voice my concerns.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
546	<p>Please do not kill the cats. Send them to a refuge or do an activity for adoption. I personally like the cats but understand how it can be a problem. I think the solution is to sterilize and put them up for adoption.</p>
547	<p>For most societies, you can tell how civilized they are by how they treat their animals, and just rounding up outdoor cats and euthanizing them is very inhumane and cruel. We all know these cats are going to be euthanized, and it is not a solution. These cats are cared for, they are not strays. Theyre part of a big colony monitored by Save a Gato. They have names and are familiar with the area. They are not hurting people and are keeping the rats at bay. Plus, most tourists love them. These cats are a direct result of abandonment by heartless people, so why punish the poor cats? The real problem is the government's failure to provide aid to these animals and educate people about respect for other living beings. The problem is NOT the cats, it's the people. If you take out these cats, you can rest assured that more will come and the problem will grow.</p>
548	<p>Apoyo totalmente el trabajo de Save a Gato, y la permanencia de los gatos en el Viejo San Juan. La vida de los felinos es tan valiosa como la de las personas. Además, le dan belleza y ternura al lugar. Removerlos y matarlos es una medida muy cruel y quien lo propuso dice muy mal de su calidad humana, es mezquino y debería ser ilegal.</p>
549	<p>I've been informed that the government of Puerto Rico is planning to round up the cats that roam freely in el Viejo San Juan and euthanize them. As everyone knows, those cats and spayed:neutered and fed. Not only is this act very cruel, but you will be creating a problem for this town. You will modo likely have a rat problem if you do this.</p> <p>Please stop this nonsense and inhumane act of violence. We need to teach to learn and teach the people of this Island that these animals are sentient beings and deserve to be protected.</p>
550	<p>From my Grandfather I learned that there are causes in our lifetimes that are worth fighting for and we can not turn our backs to them. Saving the cats in Viejo San Juan is one of those causes. These cats are the soul of Viejo San Juan, they greet and provide company to those who let them. These cats represent the people of Puerto Rico: as noble as Spaniards, as gentle as Taínos and as majestic as Africans. These cats belong to the people of Puerto Rico, they ARE Puerto Rico, and you can not remove US.</p>
551	<p>I am in favor of keeping the cat population in El Morro and the other fortresses in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The cats are part of the community, and the community provides their basic needs. The cats are not aggressive in any way. They do not endanger people. Also, the cat</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	population is part of the attractiveness of the area. I have been to Old San Juan several times and I am a witness of it.
552	I think a balance can be struck so that the cat population remains stable. I do not think it's realistic to completely get rid of these cats that are now part of our culture. The issue is similar to pigeons in the park that have been part of our culture for centuries. If the pigeons stay then cats should stay as well. Matter of fact my family my kids and I actually look forward to see the cats each time we visit San Juan
553	Feral cats need to be humanely removed and if can't be adopted euthanized. They have a high impact on native small animals and birds. Cats are domesticated animals that should live with humans and are not adapted to being "wild". It's not a good life for the cats and is a very negative impact to the visitors and the native environment. I strongly support the proposed option of feral cat removal.
554	In 2008 I moved to Old San Juan, as a teenager, to study in the Fine Arts University. I had very little experience living on my own, so one of the first things that gave me stability was adopting a cat from "Save a Gato". I knew it was safe to adopt any cat with a cut on its ear, but I wanted a very specific cat, so I went to the source. At their little pink house, they presented me with a tabby cat. The woman called him into the building and told me he was unusually special. He became my first pet and kept his simple name "Tabby". He was the one who controlled the pests of the old building I could afford, he showed me responsibility and what it meant to take care of something, later he became my emotional support animal. He moved with me from place to place and stayed throughout my entire illness and remission until he was 12 years and died in my arms. These animals and this organization do more for the community than most institutions. They're helping with the cats but there are also looking out for the residents in Old San Juan. The cats take care of the enormous roaches and the disproportionately huge rodents that dwell there. It's not enough to spray something around, this place has a full cemetery, catacombs, and old streets with buildings full of hollowed spaces. We need the cats! When they are not hunting, they are curled in someone's lap; people that will eventually leave with a neutered healthy pet. This system works and by removing them this way you will offset the delicate balance its achieved.
555	<p>Quiero establecer mi oposición a la "remoción" de los gatos silvestres en las inmediaciones de la ciudad del Viejo San Juan. Estos animales no constituyen una plaga, ni tampoco constituyen riesgo de ninguna clase, ni para el público ni para las estructuras. Estos felinos son mantenidos por la población residente en la ciudad, y este plan es totalmente innecesario. Muy respetuosamente expongo mi oposición a este plan. Muchas gracias.</p> <p>I want to file my opposition to the so-called "removal" of the feral cats in the vicinity of Old San Juan. These animals do not constitute a plague, nor they poise any risk of any kind at all, not to the public or to the structures. These felines are taken care of by the city residents and this plan is totally unnecessary. Thus, I respectfully express my opposition to this plan. Thanks.</p>
556	The cats should stay there. They are well cared for. They prey on mice, rats, and other destructive rodents, providing help in controlling their proliferation. But most of all, they are cute, beautiful living beings that do no harm, and is really nice to see them; every time I go there, I look forward to see them.
557	<p>Saludos cordiales:</p> <p>Les felicito por su iniciativa de enfrentar esta incómoda situación. Soy guía turístico</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>certificado por la Compañía de Turismo de Puerto Rico desde el año 2016. Algunos días de cada mes hago recorridos guiados para turistas por las calles de nuestra antigua ciudad amurallada del Viejo San Juan, que es un sitio reconocido por la UNESCO como Patrimonio de la Humanidad. Quisiera comunicar que estoy TOTALMENTE A FAVOR de que se reduzcan o eliminen significativamente el número de gatos callejeros que se encuentran viviendo en el Viejo San Juan, sobre todo aquellos que vive dentro y fuera de las murallas históricas cercanas a la Puerta de San Juan y la Caleta de Las Monjas, la Caleta de San Juan, La Rogativa, Casa Rosa y sobre todo el Paseo del Morro. Es sumamente desagradable y antiigiénico la presencia de heces fecales y orines de los gatos en todas esas calles. Simplemente hay demasiados. Darle comida y controlar su natalidad no es la única responsabilidad que debe tener la ONG que fomenta que sigan allí. Algunos han sido agresivos con mis clientes.</p> <p>Muchas personas se opondrán a lo que es insostenible, pero aquí lo importante es pensar en salubridad y darles un hogar adoptivo a cada uno lo antes posible. El VSJ y sus hermosas murallas merecen mejor calidad de vida.</p> <p>Atentamente,</p>
558	<p>While I continue to urge the National Park Service from eliminating the Paseo del Morro cats, a couple of questions come to mind and should be addressed at the public hearings at San Cristobal:</p> <p>a) What does the "removal" entail, and how does the safety and wellbeing of those cats be maintained?</p> <p>b) If the "removal" entails a culling practice (which again, please desist from conducting it), how is the NPS going to make sure this does not affect other cats that are pets and residents of Old San Juan? Is there a sustainability aspect to this?</p>
559	<p>Hello NPS:</p> <p>When I heard about the plans to "eliminate" the cats from the Morro area, my heart just sank. I thought we were better than this. Also shows how misinformed the agency is, because do you know the best way to keep cats coming to your neighborhood? Euthanasia. Cats are extremely territorial and as soon as they see availability in a desirable sector (meaning cat is killed), they set up camp. You take them out, another takes its place. It never ends. TNR has changed the way cat communities survive; by trapping, neutering and releasing the cats back into their habitat, humans have found a way to control the overpopulation by avoiding new cats to claim the spot. No new kittens. Slowly community becomes smaller.</p> <p>For years, Save a Gato has been working extremely hard at keeping the cat population in Old San Juan manageable by promoting TNR. Their amazing volunteer driven task has not only saved cats from horrible death, they also have opened the minds of puertorricans and tourists alike about how to coexist with our fellow felines. The cats are now part of what makes Old San Juan such an enchanting place. We are now following Morocco, Turkey, Greece and Japan as destinations where people travel and plan visits to meet the beautiful Save a Gato kitties. They are an added value to our city. They keep the area free of vermin while adding one more reason to smile and admire the city, Instagram ready all the time.</p> <p>There are enough atrocities going on in this world. Animals bring joy and positive attitudes to humans. Please, lets do our part in creating a better world.</p> <p>Thank you</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
560	<p>La presencia de los gatos en San Juan es muy positiva. Estos aportan al bienestar y salud con el control de ratas (esto ha sido evidenciando a través de los tiempos) Son animales nobles que no atacan a nadie y atracción turística. Muchos visitamos VSJ para verlos, y acariciarlos. Está probado científicamente que sirven de terapia para el stress. Visito VSJ alrededor de 50 veces al año. La mayoría de las veces voy por los gatos. Ya estando allí, siempre apporto a la economía consumiendo en los restaurantes, haciendo compras y pagando estacionamiento. No remuevan los gatos de VSJ !! Si esto sucede el efecto será adverso. Save a Gato mantiene un control de la población esterilizándolos, les provee servicios veterinarios y los mantiene en áreas específicas. Si eliminan los gatos actuales ya no habrá el control existente, llegarán otros y sucederá como en el pasado que había más de 500 gatos realengos, pariendo sin control y sin cuidados por todos lados. Establezcan vigilancia y multas más fuertes a todo aquel que abandone gatos o otro animal. Brindar apoyo a las entidades para extender, mejorar los servicios, y obtener más donaciones. Deben prestar atención a problemas reales en VSJ como el recogido de basura, los servicios sanitarios y establecer leyes para el mantenimiento de edificios esten en uso o no.</p>
561	<p>I worked in Old San Juan for many years, and the cats were a huge tourist attraction. Tourists on the street would ask me quite often where the cat house (&quot;La Casita&quot;) was located. Save a Gato volunteers have done an amazing job by themselves of trap/ neuter/release, get the cats adopted and send them to other shelters in the United States mainland, but he mayor needs to step in as well. The colony has increased because its an open area, but there is no denying Save a Gato's amazing work. You are doing a disservice to the cats, tourists and the city alike in removing them from the area, without forgetting for a second, where will you move them to? Shelters are at full capacity. National Park Service, don't be a part of this. You can do better.</p>
562	<p>Estoy totalmente de acuerdo en que se remuevan los gatos del VSJ. Eso es un asco cuando uno llega allí por el paseo y la peste es insoportable. Tienes que virar para atrás. Eso afecta negativamente el disfrute del área tanto de los puertorriqueños como de los turistas.</p>
563	<p>Not in favor of this Public scoping newsletter. This cats have been taken care of for many years by Save a gato, their volunteers and the residents of the Old San Juan area. A non for profit organization that has been backed up by residents of Puerto Rico as well as tourists. They care, vaccinate, neuter, and give some cats on adoption as well. They are well maintain, they keep plagues away and this has been their home for many years and people take care of them. Other countries protect them and here you want to &quot;displace them&quot;. This is unbelievable. Where are the humane minds behind this?</p>
564	<p>Dear SAJU Superintendent,</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for TNR, adoptable animal transport to areas where there is demand for adoption (such as within the mainland U.S.), and expanded low cost/no cost spay/neuter programs & education within Puerto Rico.</p> <p>TNR is the only humane and effective approach to managing community cats. Community cats live happy and healthy lives outdoors. However, since most community cats are not socialized or friendly to people, they cannot be adopted and live indoors, making community cats the most at-risk animals in shelters. They usually do not leave animal shelters alive. Catching and dumping OSJ's community cats into shelters will likely result in the mass killing of these cats.</p> <p>Studies show TNR stabilizes community cat populations by stopping the breeding cycle,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
565	<p>thereby improving cats' lives by relieving them of the constant stresses of mating and pregnancy, while also vaccinating them against rabies. TNR benefits the public by stopping disruptive mating behaviors like yowling, spraying, roaming, and fighting. TNR also saves taxpayer money by reducing shelter intake, shelter euthanasia, and calls to animal control.</p> <p>Hundreds of communities have adopted an official TNR ordinance or policy, and thousands more conduct grassroots, volunteer-led programs, like Save a Gato. These numbers continue to rise as more communities realize the outdated approach of catching and killing cats is cruel and ineffective.</p> <p>Moreover, the proposed removal of the food bins along the Paseo will not effectively deter cats from the area. Feeding bans have been shown to be ineffective in decreasing community cat populations. These cats do not depend on people feeding them to survive. As scavengers, cats will find food in garbage cans and dumpsters. Cats are territorial, bonded to their surroundings, and will not leave simply because compassionate people can no longer legally feed them. Ultimately, a feeding ban will result in cats roaming farther to find food and digging through people's trash.</p> <p>Instead, expanding access on the island to low cost or no cost spay/neuter programs will greatly reduce the population of unwanted, abandoned animals flooding areas like OSJ where misguided individuals dump their cats, knowing someone else will care for them. This is not just a cat problem in OSJ, but a Commonwealth-wide problem of dumping unwanted cats and dogs. Indeed, there is an area on the south side of the island colloquially known as Dead Dog Beach, reflecting this practice and its unfortunate effects on the environment and the animals that are dumped.</p> <p>Studies show that in homes where the income was \$35,000 or higher, almost all cats (around 93%) were neutered, while 75% of unneutered cats live in homes where the income was less than \$35,000. (Data from alleycat.org). The lower-income owners who were interviewed primarily cited high cost as the reason for not sterilizing their cats.</p> <p>With much of Puerto Rico's population living below the poverty line, spay/neuter is inaccessible. Thus, unwanted cats are often dumped in Old San Juan or other areas of the island, as the perceived only viable alternative to humanely unload the burden of unwanted pets. Thus, education and access to low cost/no cost sterilization resources is key. Let's tackle the problem at its root, rather than band-aid the symptoms.</p> <p>I propose the National Park Service partner with local government, Save a Gato, and organizations like the Humane Society, to facilitate implementation of regular low cost/no cost spay/neuter initiatives in OSJ. This will reduce the effects of animal dumping and the burden on the underfunded, 100% volunteer group that is Save a Gato. This should be a catalyst to implementing low cost/no cost sterilization island wide, to truly address this problem once and for all. Education and access to sterilization resources will humanely curb the population of unwanted animals. Not catch and elimination. Not TNR without resources or support. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Pls save the cats!</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
566	<p>Saludos, considero que los gatos no deben ser eliminados del Viejo San Juan ya que ellos no molestan y están bien cuidados además mantienen el área libre de satánicas y sobre todo de RATAS que son portadoras de LEPTOSPIROSIS, una enfermedad zoononica y mortal. Cuando yo visito el Viejo San Juan veo los gatos y se dejan acariciar y veo a los turistas tirándose fotos con ellos. Son un gran atractivo para la zona turística lo cual dice mucho de nosotros los puertorriqueños debido a lo bien cuidado que están. Yo tengo 8 gatos en mi casa esterizados y vacunados además alimento colonias de gatos por mi área. Es tanto el amor que tengo por los animales que Estudie Tecnología Veterinario. NO ELIMINEN LOS GATOS DEL VIEJO SAN JUAN.</p> <p>Gracias</p>
567	<p>Saludos, gracias por plan de manejo de los gatos, yo e dejado de hacer ejercicios por alli por el mal olor y la inseguridad de los gatos que uno camina por el area y son agresivos y quieren morder a las personas singan este excelente trabajo . Si necesitan alguien que deponga a favor de la remocion no duden en comunicarse</p>
568	<p>Please keep cats safe</p>
569	<p>NO VEO LA RAZON DE MATAR LOS GATOS. ELLOS SIENTEN IGUAL QUE LOS HUMANOS. PORQUE ASESINARLOS.PORQUE NO BUSCARLES HOGAR, AYUDA.LO MAS FACIL ES SER LOS ASESINOS DE CRIATURAS INDEFENSAS .QUE DAÑOS ELLOS HACEN NO SEAN CRIMINALES . MATARLOS DEMUESTRAN LO PODRIDO DE SERES HUMANOS QUE SON.</p>
570	<p>I think the cats should stay where they are, the ones who are invading territory are humans. The cats keep pest population down and in control. If the government is so greedy and only cares for money then maybe the should go put themselves down. Keep the cats!! We should kill the politicians they are worthless.</p>
571	<p>La presencia de los gatos en el Viejo San Juan se ha convertido en parte del panorama de esta ciudad. Los gatos ya son parte de ella, no tan solo se ven en las cercanías de los parques (El Morro y San Cristobal) están presente a través de la ciudad y son parte de esta.</p> <p>La medida presentada para el manejo de los gatos realengos resulta en una medida inhumana y sin sustento. Se establece que el propósito de esta es mejorar la experiencia y seguridad de los visitantes y empleados. ¿Como la presencia de los gatos daña una experiencia de esta magnitud? Puedo pensar en varias formas de dañar la experiencia de estar en el Parque y ninguna de estas tiene que ver con la presencia de los gatos en el área. ¿Proteger los recursos culturales y naturales? ¿Exactamente cómo se ven afectados los recursos culturales por la presencia de los gatos? ¿Y los recursos naturales? Entiendo la competencia de las especies y el balance que se requiere para poder mantener una fauna saludable, pero la realidad es que la propuesta carece de la información que pueda sustentar este planteamiento. Además, la medida establece otros puntos que establecen la "necesidad" del plan (cumplir con la política de especies invasoras, reducir problemas de seguridad y salud humana, etc) pero no provee información o data que justifique los mismos. ¿Existe información documentada de cuantas personas han sido afectada, ya sea su salud o que sean atacados por los gatos?</p> <p>Estos gatos cercanos al área de los parques son atendidos por la organización Save a Gato y son considerados como gatos comunitarios donde la mayoría han sido esterilizados. Como medida alterna, entiendo que el Servicio nacional de Parques debe invertir el esfuerzo en otras iniciativas. Se debe concientizar a los visitantes de no alimentar a los gatos ya que estos son atendidos por una organización privada y enfocar el uso de las cámaras en identificar a los individuos que abandonan animales en el área. Este ultimo punto debe ser enforzado</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>legalmente para que no siga ocurriendo. El abandono de un animal se debe considerar maltrato y castigado por la ley.</p> <p>En resumen, no hay manera de hacer esto sin afectar trágicamente a los gatos. La condición de los albergues en Puerto Rico es crítica. Estos están llenos en su mayoría capacidad, así que imaginen tratando de manejar todos estos casos que les estarían llegando. Todos sabemos lo que ocurren cuando los albergues de animales están llenos, los animales son sacrificados. Lo cual entiendo es inaceptable.</p>
572	<p>Please, please, please let the cats stay in Old San Juan! Beyond even simply not bothering anyone, everyone is always happy to see them. Organizations like Save A Gato are keeping the populations reasonable. For their own part, they provide pest control, and are something of an attraction in their own right. Doing anything to disturb the balance they've struck would be detrimental to all parties. I love seeing the cats whenever we go downtown - please don't break my heart like that!</p>
573	<p>Los gatos son parte importante del viejo San Juan! No los maten seria maltrato animal ellos ayudan con el control de ratas</p>
574	<p>I agree with your plan. Cats and other stray animals need to be controlled to ensure public safety and health.</p>
575	<p>Save a Gato has an effective program to neuter and return the cats. Euthanizing the cats is not the solution. Work with save a gato to continue the neuter and release program.</p>
576	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>I'm reaching out because some close friends of mine, locals, informed me that there were going to be measures taken to "get rid of" the cat colony on San Juan. I want to start out by saying that the cats bring so much happiness, not only to locals, but to tourists. The cats were my favorite part of our wedding trip. They were even in my wedding photos! We immediately looked into save a gato and how amazing of a program that is. Please, please do not get rid of the cats, especially inhumanely. Just know that the impact of taking away the cats are going to be most definitely negative. Please consider.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p>
577	<p>Deben trabajar en conjunto para esterilización masiva Apoyo a los programas como safe a gato y otros q ofrecen voluntariamente sus servicios. Y promover y crear conciencia de lo q sucede con estos animales q brindan tanto amor Gracias</p>
578	<p>The cats in Old San Juan have been cared for by the Save a Gato Organization. They have fed and TNR much of them. I do not think it is necessary to take out these cats from their home probably to die, since most of them are feral. The federal government should not make these decisions that affect the lives of these animals.</p>
579	<p>Most tourists want to visit the area specifically to see these sweet babies. It is some of the charm and attraction!</p>
580	<p>Please reconsider and stop the planned street cats eradication from Paseo del Morro/National Park grounds! They need to change their minds. They naturally help with rodent pest control and we believe they're also a tourist attraction. Rodents pose more a lot more harm to public health and the environment.</p>
581	<p>Vivir o disfrutar de una ciudad como San Juan, no es solo el disfrute del mar, de los monumentos históricos, caminar por adoquines azules, sino también de apreciar y valorar todo lo que hace de ese lugar uno romántico y mítico y eso incluye a nuestros animales.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>¿Cómo imaginar a nuestro Viejo SanJuan sin sus palomas? ¿Cómo pretender caminar por sus calles sin sentir la mirada enigmática de un gato? No podemos permitir que, debido a la intolerancia o a la aversión de unos pocos hacia los gatos o hacia los animales en general, se pretenda eliminar de nuestro entorno a unas criaturas que legendariamente son parte de la vida cotidiana del ser humano. Me opongo tenazmente a que saquen del Viejo San Juan a nuestros gatos callejeros. Este tipo de práctica es cruel y vergonzosa. Solo habla de la falta de conciencia y de humanidad de quienes la promueven y la ejecutan. No lo permitiremos.</p>
582	<p>Please reconsider and stop the planned street cats eradication from Paseo del Morro/National Park grounds! They naturally help with rodent pest control and we believe they're also a tourist attraction. Rodents pose a lot more threat to public health and the environment.</p>
583	<p>I do not longer reside in Puerto Rico but did for the majority of my life, and I oppose to the removal of the colony of cats. Save a Gato does a great job , also cats do serve a purpose on the environment Removing them would cause for the population of rodents to increase in the area and that's a problem Puerto Rico doesn't need.</p>
584	<p>Alimento 8 gatos callejeros con mucho sacrificio pero con el amor profundo que les tengo hago esta mision, el gobierno ni los alcaldes se hacen cargo, he esterilizado 4 con ayuda de una amiga. Sugiero se le den incentivos ya sea en costos medicinales e hospitalarios ya que las personas que estamos colaborando no contamos con suficiente ingreso para todo lo que conlleva mantenerlos. Tambien crear un hospital municipal 24/7 donde sean llevados para esterilizar y atender entre otras cosas ya que no contamos con ese recurso y nos agobia verlos padecer. Entiendo que deben haber recursos del gobierno como en otros paises donde se han creado hogares seguro para ellos. En PR muchos refugios NO TODOS los matan por no tener recursos para mantenerlos y han tomado mala fama y los que queremos a los gatos no lo llevamos alli. Queremos un hogar seguro y de proteccion para los gatos. Y que se incentive a los que los mantienen, el gasto es excesivo por altos costos, debemos aprender a convivir con ellos y que forma mas segura manteniendolos vacunados y bien saludables, no tirarlos ni eliminarlos como sino fueran parte de este mundo, son seres vivos que sienten y padecen como tu y yo. Y son MUCHA gente la que esta ayudando en esta mision y esperamos que ustedes busquen una solucion favorable para los gatos que sufren dia a dia las inclemencias del tiempo, ataques de otros animales, ataques de gente insensible y hay que tener EMPATIA. Hagamos algo por ellos y sean ustedes parte de la solucion y no del problema. Gracias Dios se lo multiplicara en bendiciones. Me gustaria hacer un refugio en el patio para ellos pero no cuento con ingreso suficiente para hacerlo. Porq no se hace un programa donde hayan fondos para ayudar a crear catios o refugios a los que estan haciendose cargo de ellos? Esto evitaria estar en las calles, es una solucion, ayudas a la persona que se hace cargo y ayudas al gato a la vez.</p>
585	<p>En shock q quieran resolver esto de esta manera. Problema q causamos nosotros mismos dejando mascotas realengas. Cómo en vez de ayudar a las organizaciones de refugios para resolver estos problemas pensamos en tomar acción de esta manera? Insólito, yo no me crié en una isla dnd se me enseñó esto. Rotundamente en negación de lo q se le va a hacer a la comunidad de Gatos en el VSJ. Porqué no mejor optar por hacer lo q hacen en Turquía? Los gatos son parte de la comunidad. Mejor busquen cómo ayudar a castrarlos y se acaba el problema de q se multipliquen y aprendamos a vivir en armonía con ellos. Lamentablemente no puedo ir a expresar mi sentir en las reuniones q se están proveyendo, las cuales me informan parecen ser falsas ya q no se les ha dejado expresarse. Valores mi gente, sean humanitarios.</p>
586	<p>The cats shouldn't be removed from El Morro sorroundings ! They eliminate rat plagues !!!!</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
587	Los gatos no hacen ningun tipo de daño. A cambio dan felicidad a esos que les gustan y ellos no tienen ningun otro lado para ir. No abandonen los gatitos que necesitan ser cuidados.
588	<p>I've lived my entire 20 years of life on this island I had seldom seen such an unproductive and unnecessary project coming from any government agency/organization. While a war on rats is being waged in NYC, a war on rat control is being waged in VSJ. Did we learn nothing from Pope Gregory IX? My grandfather has been a tour guide in Old San Juan for over 20 years, so naturally I've been many, many times. Since I was child, I'd love going down Caleta Las Monjas for two reasons. Limber and cats. Those adorable, fuzzy friends you see sitting under the shade of a balcony, or trotting around the adoquines, unbothered, not causing any troubles. And it's hardly just me that has had this experience. You see tourists from all over the world stopping to stare at the cats, cracking a smile from ear to ear, taking a picture, or trying to pet them. Cats attract people. Everyone knows of the Istanbul cats. Everyone knows about Ao Island in Japan. Cats, apart from giving a welcoming and alive sense to the city, attract people, every group will always have a couple of animal lovers that will want to go see the historic cat colony. Getting rid of them would be akin to getting rid of the totem, or Paseo de los Presidentes, talking about statues, they even have their own statue, el Gato Jirafa, right in front of the cathedral, one of the most important landmarks in VSJ. If they're important enough to have a statue alluding them, why remove them? I would understand the answer to this question if they weren't taken care of. If they weren't fixed, if they weren't fed, if they looked unkempt, then I'd be able to understand. But these cats are taken care of. There's groups caring for them, people feed them. Save a Gato provides TNR for them, which by the way, is proven to work in spaces much more open than old San Juan. They're not an out of control plague, there's no need for removal, the near gallons of human urine in the garitas pose a bigger health threat than them. Maybe the NPS should be doing something about that, instead of worrying about something so unproblematic. When you have an invasive plague you remove it. The cats aren't invaders. This is their home.</p>
589	<p>After attending the first public meeting on 11/2/22 I left with more questions and issues than I arrived with. The man who chose the format of the meeting came out to address the crowd claiming he did not understand how emotional of a subject this would be (the subject being killing the feline residents we live alongside of and care for on a daily basis) nor did he think there would be an issue with the format of the meeting, despite one of his (local) supervisors informing him it would be. Part of your entire presentation claims cultural infractions, but the man chosen to be the front facing involvement of this issue has no idea about the culture of the place he's trying to affect or the citizens who live in that place. Additionally, I walked away with some literature that was available. I've already written in once but will write in again based on a more thorough understanding (although I still have a lot of questions) about your proposed plan.</p> <p>First of all is the alarming statement on the back that says "The NPS anticipates a finding of no significant impact, which will identify the selected action for implementation." Which I believe means you're already condemned these cats to death based on incredibly problematic findings which I will address below, and at the meeting you made it very clear it is now the citizens who need to produce findings and studies to contradict claims that you're making about the cats.</p> <p>About the claims; your issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cultural Landscapes. You claim the cats are not consistent with the cultural landscape however there were cats living where the paseo was built before there was even a road there.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>The Spanish Settlers brought the cats here to deal with the rats, so they were here longer than any of us, including the park. Not to mention that the cats are seen in artwork being sold around Old San Juan.</p> <p>2. Health and Safety. "Free-ranging cats CAN carry a number of diseases"Where is the study that shows our cats have and are transmitting these diseases? (Also you list the Plague which is ridiculous). "Cats CAN become infected with parasites" Once again this is a general fact about cats and not one that pertains to the specific cats in Old San Juan. "Visitors that approach free-ranging cats at the park COULD ALSO BE bitten or scratched." The cats COULD ALSO find a cure for cancer so until there is hard evidence to support that the cats are violently attacking innocent visitors this should not be used in the legal case sentencing them to removal and death. "Cat survey stations have shown rats feeling alongside cats." I have seen one rat in Old San Juan since I moved here two years ago. I saw it on O'Donnell street and I saw it AFTER the one free-ranging cat in the area was adopted and moved to Florida.</p> <p>3. Visitor Experience. "visitor opinions about the presence of cats vary" I was a visitor and I moved to Old San Juan over other areas of Puerto Rico because I loved the cats and Save a Gato so much. Not to mention the countless visitors who stop by Save a Gato and praise them for their efforts. "Many visitors complain about seeing cats and the feeding stations and the smell associated with them, while others enjoy seeing the cats when visiting" Firstly, I expect these complaints will be made public. As with our comments defending the cats, I'm sure they must have been made in writing to be included in this legal procedure. Secondly, the second half of this statement almost defends the cats as it's certainly the only National Park I've been to where you can freely interact with local animals. It's a giant benefit and opportunity you should be trying to profit from, not remove. "Cats and their waste are a concern for groups requesting permits for the use of the Paseo" What groups? I've been running on that path and it gets cleaned by volunteers but also is a massive splash zone from waves so I doubt this is a severe issue that can't be resolved in another way (instead of paying to euthanize all of these cats you can hire someone to clean?)</p> <p>4. Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat. Skipping over the first vague point that just has more cat facts that don't point towards behavior actually being studied at the paseo... "The impacts of free-ranging cats on wildlife are well documented and are likely occurring at the park." Likely Occurring! You don't have the statistics but you've already anticipated the continuation of removing the cats?</p> <p>5. Non-native Species - Cats. Welfare concerns, Save a Gato tends to injured and sick cats with care and compassion, if this is not being done at a pace you are comfortable with, provide them with the means to do the already successful work they do, and do while also being trusted and appreciated by the community. "Free-ranging cats live much shorter lives" Even shorter when euthanized due to removal. "For those cats that may be suitable for adoption, there are often not enough adopters" Once again you can use the funds anticipated in cat trapping and euthanasia and funnel that into Save a Gato who already has a system in place that humanely deals with the cats, and I mean actually humanely, not the NPS idea of humane which includes euthanizing an otherwise healthy cat.</p>
590	<p>In the case of Old San Juan cats. LEAVE THOSE CATS ALONE!!!!!! They hurt NO ONE. They maintain the place rat free. They have been living there for years. You dont want the place to "smell like pee"? Start by the garitas where HUMANS pee everytime,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>and I dont see you wanting you to kill them. No, you want to kill an inocentncreature that has done nothing to anyone. That colony is cared for, sterelized and vaccinated. Why dont you take care of the people that keep abandoning their cats there?? I dont see you doing anything to avoid that. I have been jogging in Paseo La Princesa for a while and haven feel any cat pee odor... but you certainly can feel a mile away the smell of HUMAN pee in the garitas. LEAVE THOSE CATS ALONE!!! In Istanbul and Spain cats roam freely and they are vaccinated ans sterilized and people LEAVE THEM BE!!!! But nooo herebthey want to kill them all. You have no heart at all. &quot;For the good of peoples health&quot;? Yeahh... no one believes that since those cats are sterilized and vaccinated against any disease that can harm us. Again Leave the cats alone. Take care of the HUMANS peeing in the garitas.</p>
591	<p>In the case of Old San Juan cats. LEAVE THOSE CATS ALONE!!!!!! They hurt NO ONE. They maintain the place rat free. They have been living there for years. You dont want the place to &quot;smell like pee&quot;? Start by the garitas where HUMANS pee everytime, and I dont see you wanting you to kill them. No, you want to kill an inocentncreature that has done nothing to anyone. That colony is cared for, sterelized and vaccinated. Why dont you take care of the people that keep abandoning their cats there?? I dont see you doing anything to avoid that. I have been jogging in Paseo La Princesa for a while and haven feel any cat pee odor... but you certainly can feel a mile away the smell of HUMAN pee in the garitas. LEAVE THOSE CATS ALONE!!! In Istanbul and Spain cats roam freely and they are vaccinated ans sterilized and people LEAVE THEM BE!!!! But nooo herebthey want to kill them all. You have no heart at all. &quot;For the good of peoples health&quot;? Yeahh... no one believes that since those cats are sterilized and vaccinated against any disease that can harm us. Again Leave the cats alone. Take care of the HUMANS peeing in the garitas</p>
592	<p>When I heard that the cats of Old San Juan might be removed my heart shattered. These cats are part of what makes Old San Juan so charming and removing them would be a great injustice. These cats are taken care of by the community and local TNR organizations. The resident cats help keep pests away and are a popular tourist attraction. The best way to control the local cat population is to fund your local Trap Neuter Release programs like Save A Gato, and make sure the cats continue to be well taken care of while sterilizing and vaccinating the majority of them to control overpopulation. Please do not remove or euthanize the cats, they are an important and historical part of Old San Juan.</p>
593	<p>Euthanizing the cats of Old San Juan is a proyect that will simply create a vaccuum which will be filled with more cats, this time unspayed. Organizations like Save A Gato have, for years, without government support, dedicated themselves to TNR (Trap Neuter Return) and adoption campaigns. Killing the cats will simply reset this arduous effort as more cats from nearby areas come in or as more people abandon cats. What is truly needed is an educational campaign, government supported, about the adoption of stray cats, the need to spay your pets and support for TNR campaigns. Several generations of this work will be a long-term solution that reduces the stray cat population not just in Old San Juan but also in Puerto Rico. Euthanizing will simply become a killing cycle. It is due to humanity that there is this cat overpopulation problem, the least that we can do is learn to live healthily alongside them while we help the population naturally decrease. It would be of benefit to both the cats and the local community to be better educated on adoption, animal care, etc, instead of treating the cats like a pest and removing them (temporarily) from sight. This is not a long term solution, it is simply a cruel option.</p>
594	<p>Old San Juan has always been full of stray cats but they are well loved and taken care of by the community and local TNR organizations. Tourists absolutely adore them and they even have their own statue. Please don't euthanize these animals</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
595	Please leave the kitties alone, or use funding to help support tnr orgs. They are well loved and cared for!
596	<p>Antes de tratar de abordar desde cualquier perspectiva el tema del control de las poblaciones de gatos, hay que tener algo muy claro: la presencia de colonias felinas no se puede eliminar de ninguna manera, no se ha podido hacer en ninguna parte del mundo, y no se logrará eliminando a 200 gatos del VSJ.</p> <p>EFFECTO VACIO se ha documentado en todo el mundo. El enfoque tradicional de control de los animales ha sido capturar y matar a los gatos silvestres/comunitarios. Si bien esto puede reducir temporalmente el número de gatos comunitarios en un área determinada, es en última instancia contraproducente, ya que la población de gatos repunta. Debido al efecto vacío, los gatos que no hayan atrapado siguen reproduciéndose y otros gatos se mudan al territorio nuevo disponible.</p> <p>Roger Tabor se encargó de estudiar por primera vez este fenómeno en los gatos silvestres/comunitarios de la ciudad de Londres en la década de los años 80.</p> <p>La alta territorialidad de los gatos silvestres/comunitarios, hace que su presencia actúe de barrera contra los intentos de colonizar el territorio por otros gatos, incluso cuando los recursos son suficientes para mantener a una población mayor de la existente. Las poblaciones se estabilizan cuando el número de individuos esterilizados alcanza el 70% y si se llega al 100% la colonia declinará lentamente. La salud de los gatos mejora y las molestias vecinales disminuyen.</p> <p>ATRAPAR, ESTERILIZAR, REGRESAR (TNR) sí funciona. TNR es el único enfoque compasivo y eficaz para tratar las poblaciones de gatos comunitarios. Implica la captura, la esterilización, la vacunación y el regreso de los gatos comunitarios a sus hogares al aire libre. Después, ya no nacen más camadas de gatitos: la población se estabiliza. TNR detiene el estrés asociado con embarazos y comportamientos de apareamiento, como maullar o pelear. TNR no solo es el enfoque humano efectivo, sino que mejora sus vidas.</p> <p>NO EXISTE EVIDENCIA DE CASOS DE ENFERMEDADES O ATAQUES A PERSONAS/TURISTAS POR PARTE DE LOS GATOS EN EL VSJ Si bien han presentado algunos problemas de salud y "problemas" que pueden ocasionar los gatos en general, la información es sacada directamente del internet y carece de evidencia que demuestre que en efecto alguna persona ha sido atacada e/o ingresada a raíz del contacto y/o ataque de uno de los gatos residentes del VSJ.</p> <p>LOS GATOS DEL VSJ SON PARTE DE NUESTRA HISTORIA, CULTURA, Y CUMPLEN CON UN PROPOSITO El que conoce un poco de historia, sabe que los gatos son especies que fueron traídas a nuestra isla por los españoles hace más de 500 años. Los gatos eran incluidos como tripulantes de los barcos, para que controlaran las ratas, y ratones. Al culminar el viaje, estos se convertían en residentes de la ciudad amurallada, pues su labor de mantener la ciudad libre de roedores, y sabandijas, era crucial para los conquistadores.</p> <p>Esos gatos han sido guardianes, una parte vital y residentes de la ciudad amurallada desde su creación. Desde entonces han sido fuente de inspiración para libros, fotografías, artesanías,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>escritos, etc de un sin número de artistas, escritores y fotógrafos. Hoy, sus vidas están en juego a raíz de una intención desinformada que mucho más allá de velar por el bienestar del parque, y sus visitantes...estaría creando un verdadero problema de salud y sobre población.</p> <p>HAY PERSONAS QUE DEPENDEN DE ESTOS GATOS Son muchos visitantes los que disfrutan de una caminata junto a estos gatos. Tanto así, que optan por tomar fotografías de recuerdo y hasta sacan de su tiempo para publicar un escrito con su grata experiencia gracias a los felinos. Hay casos en los cuales algunos de estos mininos han tocado tan adentro el corazón de un visitante, que han sido adoptados. Más allá de darle un toque de magia al recorrido, son muchos residentes y visitantes que van a encontrar paz junto a estos gatos. Pues ellos sirven de anti depresivo, de escape, compañía, de terapia para muchos. De hecho, han ayudado a niños y jóvenes voluntarios a encontrar su vocación gracias a su experiencia de pequeños junto a los gatitos de nuestro Viejo San Juan.</p> <p>El eliminar estos gatos, afectaría grandemente a personas que tienen vínculos con ellos. De hecho, ya esta noticia ha causado mucha angustia, ansiedad y depresión en quienes aman y velan por estos animales.</p> <p>SAVE A GATO HACE UNA LABOR TITANICA Desde el 2004 Save a Gato ha realizado una labor sin precedentes con relación al cuidado de los gatos del VSJ. Trabajan incansablemente para operar, vacunar, alimentar, y velar por el bienestar de los felinos que están a su cargo. Cada gato tiene su nombre, y expediente médico. Los voluntarios se encargan de limpiar los excrementos de los gatos, de velar porque las estaciones de comidas estén en áreas no visibles (según el acuerdo con Parques Nacionales), los mantienen libres de pulgas y otros parásitos externos con tratamientos mensuales, y hasta tienen un programa de adopción.</p> <p>El reto mayor de la organización sin fines de lucros es manejar la sobre población de gatos a nivel isla, que ha ocasionado el abandono de gatos por personas sin escrúpulos en el VSJ.</p> <p>En PR existen MUY pocas alternativas de operaciones de animales a bajo costo o gratuitas. Desde la eliminación de los Spayathons, el problema de sobre población animal ha alcanzado niveles sin precedentes.</p> <p>Las pocas organizaciones, rescatistas, personas involucradas en esta labor de esterilización, NO dan a basto con tanta carga y los pocos recursos disponibles, entiéndase por esto; veterinarios dispuestos a operar a bajo costo, y falta de fondos para poder hacer el trabajo que necesitamos en Puerto Rico.</p> <p>SOLUCIONES Como bien se ha explicado, el eliminar los gatos más allá de ser una solución temporera...creará un problema mayor, pues nuevos gatos NO operados, NO vacunados, vendrán a ocupar ese espacio en poco tiempo.</p> <p>Tenemos una gran oportunidad de EDUCAR a la población sobre las consecuencias del abandono animal. La importancia de operar a nuestros callejeritos y crear conciencia sobre el respeto a la vida.</p> <p>-Se deben de hacer cumplir las leyes con relación al abandono y maltrato animal.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>-Los fondos obtenidos por las multas, deben de ser destinados a Save a Gato para que puedan continuar con su labor.</p> <p>-Parques Nacionales con su experiencia, debe de buscar la manera de trabajar en conjunto con Save a Gato para crear rótulos, folletos, programas de educación sobre la historia importancia de los gatos en la ciudad, fomentando el respeto por los animales y la convivencia humana con otras especies.</p> <p>-Se puede asignar un espacio con el fin antes mencionado, que sirva de museo con relación a los residentes de cuatro patas del VSJ. Ahí se le puede dar espacios a exhibiciones de fotografías, artesanos, etc para que expongan y vendan sus obras donando una parte a Save a Gato. También se puede colocar un buzón de donaciones y asignar un área donde puedan conocer a los gatos que están listos para adopción. Este espacio puede tener un café, donde uno se siente a disfrutar de un buen café puertorriqueño de la compañía de los felinos.</p> <p>Existen muchas oportunidades para hacer un verdadero impacto no solo en el VSJ, si no en el mundo. Las redes sociales se han convertido en un arma poderosa, que puede ayudar a atraer a miles de personas a vivir una experiencia humana y memorables, más allá de pasearse por un paseo de piedras frente al mar.</p> <p>Experiencias junto a los felinos se encuentran en Grecia, Turquía, Buenos Aires, Barcelona, Italia, entre otros muchos otros países que están popularizando este concepto.</p> <p>Dicen que el que no conoce la historia, está condenada a repetirla. El Papa Gregorio IX provocó exterminio de los gatos en Europa al relacionarlos con el diablo. Esto ocasionó la muerte de alrededor de 100 millones de personas durante la peste negra o la peste bubónica.</p> <p>El que el gobierno federal arremeta en contra de la vida de los felinos del VSJ, solo va a abrir una peligrosa puerta en donde las personas sin escrúpulos y sin respeto a la vida de otros seres vivos, encuentren un apoyo para emular esas acciones. Los esfuerzos de TNR que realizamos algunos, serían en vano y estaríamos donde comenzamos hace años atrás, con un problema mayor que enfrentar, esta vez, sin nadie que lo atienda.</p> <p>¡Hoy levanto mi voz por los que no la tienen, y me OPONGO ROTUNDAMENTE AL ASESINATO DE LOS RESIDENTES DE CUATRO PATAS DE NUESTRO VIEJO SAN JUAN!</p>
597	Please let the cats continue in Old San Juan. They are effective in preventing vermin and they are a joyous presence in the area. Removing them would be cruel.
598	National Parks should work with Save a Gato to conserve and respect the lives of all cats in Old San Juan. This foundation has done a great job over the years and national parks should work together with them. The Cats of Old San Juan are part of the history of the city. Please respect their lives.
599	Saludos, Lamento mucho, que Parques Nacionales, presente información incorrecta, carente de fuentes bibliográficas, datos fidedignos, de quien o quienes realizaron las investigaciones y recogieron las estadísticas. No presenta evidencia de ataques o cualquier otro problema asociado a Los Gatos del área. Problemas ya resueltos por organizaciones sin fines de lucro y

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>los ciudadanos que donaban, adoptan y cooperan, desde todas partes del mundo y Puerto Rico.</p> <p>Al parecer, es una campaña de odio, llena de prejuicio hacia Los Gatos, exponiéndolos como monstruos o plagas y que pretende crear terror y pánico. Esto último podría generar una cacería de brujas hacia dichos animales por la irresponsabilidad y pesimismo manejo de la situación.</p> <p>Me ha extrañado muchísimo que una Agencia Federal desee remover una especie de su hábitat. Por lo general, trabajan con planes de control y mitigación de especies sin que sean maltratados o exterminados.</p> <p>En vez, de tratar de llevar un plan de destrucción y mal intencionado, que deja al país nuevamente, en la mirilla pública e internacional, como país degenerado y maltratante, debería busca asociarse a las organizaciones pertinentes, personas preparadas y capacitadas, conocedoras de esa especie y elaborar un plan para proteger los derechos de los gatos y penalizar a quienes incumple la ley abandonando nuevos gatos en el área.</p> <p>Espero se retracten y se disculpen públicamente por sugerir tal aberración, en tiempos donde necesitamos ser empáticos y promover un mensaje de tolerancia hacia otros animales y naturaleza que comparten el planeta con nosotros.</p> <p>Muchas gracias.</p>
600	Yo apoyo a Save Gato en el Viejo San Juan PR ellos hacen una gran labor con los gatitos que están allí vacunados y esterilizados.
601	Yo apoyo a Save Gato en el Viejo San Juan PR ellos hacen una gran labor con los gatitos que están allí vacunados y esterilizados.
602	<p>Greeting,</p> <p>I am in favor of keeping the beloved cats of Old San Juan and not have them removed and euthanized . They are well taken care of by The Save a Gato Association and are an important component in the control of rats which are abundant in Old San Juan, a reality that no government official has been willing to look at.</p> <p>Their surroundings do not smell like urine and feces , unlike the rest of Old San Juan that has a rotten smell of urine from the homeless and drunk people who pee everywhere.</p> <p>I would like to see the compiled statistics showing the amount of people complaining about the cats, or the origin of the idea of having them removed.</p>
603	<p>The cats from el Viejo San Juan has not disturbed or bothered any turist and been around the area for years. This removal program will just waste money or services that should be used on something else. El Paseo de la Princesa is under construction and shores around el Morro need clean up. Maybe focus on that. The cats in el viejo San Juan is part of the journey of going there you expect the cats to be there and all cats have gone trough the proper procedures and cares to not spread diseases. As an animal lover my favorite thing on el viejo San Juan is see the cats on their lazy, care free environment. Removing the cats is nothing but a waste of time and created controversy.</p>
604	<p>Esta no es la primera vez que NPS propone un plan para el control de gatos realengos en el Viejo San Juan. En el anio 2005, se crea Save a Gato ya que la comunidad se opuso a un plan de control que incluia eutanasia de algunos individuos. Claramente se ha demostrado que el metodo utilizado por SAG no ha sido efectivo para reducir la poblacion de gatos en las calles del Viejo San Juan. Por lo tanto, opino que se debe tomar una accion diferente a lo que se ha estado haciendo hasta ahora, la alternativa de no ACCION, no es la solucion, sino mas de lo mismo. La Accion Propuesta me parece correcta, pero aqui viene la preocupacion de que se hara con los gatos atrapados. Propongo una campania masiva de adopcion con los mas</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	saludables, juvenes y dociles. El resto, eutanasia siguiendo los procedimientos humanamente aceptados.
605	<p>I am against the removal of the cats in Old San Juan. I frequent the area weekly just to visit the cats. I bring treats to give them as I walk the streets. I always see people stopping to talk, pet, or even take pictures of the cats.(including tourist) I have never heard anyone say anything bad about them. I have donated to Save a Gato to help with all the things they do for the kitties. Since they do not get any assistance from any government entity. I have to say I am very proud of what that organization is doing to help neuter/ spay all the cats. I can't imagine removing these babies from what they call home only because tourist complain about them. The tourist visit for a few hours or days and then they leave to go home. How can you justify taking these cats away on a complaint from someone who doesn't even live here???</p> <p>Absurd to me. And what about the rat problem that will come with removing the cats? How will you control that? With all the ships that come in and out and all the trash. I can assure you Old San Juan will be I feared with rats in a few months. I would rather see a cute furry cat face then see a nasty disease Infested rat!!! These cats deserve better and I hope the people will stand up for their rights. I will do what I can to help protect them. And will you make sure they are all adopted by loving homes when you remove them? If you are planning on killing them maybe PETA should be contacted. We are the voices of the cats and we will not back down!!!!</p>
606	<p>As a resident of Puerto Rico, I do not agree with what this agency plans to do with these cats. They have been in the same spot for years and now this agency want to take action with something that doesn't bother anyone except your agency. Why? It bothers your people? Are they causing damages? Are they making the area</p> <p>&quot;ugly&quot;? Because if it's for that statement it would happen the same with dogs that roam the area no? But you only want to get rid of the cats...and I also do not agree in removing any animal that roams the streets free. Thank the cats you have in Old San Juan that is rats and pest free! I'm impressed that with the money your agency receives is more important to get rid of the cats than instead of using that money for making improvements for the parks in this islands that are in terrible conditions, but yeah you guys waste money in any stupid thing. Use the money for better purposes than getting rid of the cats that are part of the cultural development of the area, imagine if its an cultural impact than one of the plazas the local names it &quot;Plaza de los gatos&quot;.</p> <p>Have a good day</p>
607	<p>I am opposed to the proposed action on the grounds that it's inhumane and will be ineffective at addressing the underlying issue of growth of the feral cat population in Old San Juan.</p> <p>I have visited San Juan three times in the past ten years and plan to visit again soon, and am also considering relocating to Puerto Rico. Seeing the cats on the streets of Old San Juan has been a highlight of my visits and I consider them a native part of the landscape in a similar way that feral cats abound in the ruins of the Forum in Rome. I support the work of Save a Gato and donate money to them each year.</p> <p>The local population of cats has been established in the area for a much longer time than is indicated in the scoping document, which suggests that feral cats in the area were introduced recently. Local legend states that these cats are descended from cats brought along with Columbus on his voyages to Puerto Rico beginning in 1493. While this may not be true, it is certain that feral domestic cats are frequently found in human settlements established by</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Spain and other European countries. It is not appropriate to consider the histories of these settlements without considering cats to be an inherent part of them.</p> <p>Eradication of the current population of cats is impossible. There are two reasons for this. First, NPS does not have jurisdiction for removing cats, humanely or otherwise, from the entire area of Old San Juan, and feral cats will move into the treated area as soon as the current cat population is removed. Second, the area to be treated is an area targeted by people who abandon cats, and this activity will continue regardless of whether the current population is removed or not. The scoping document didn't indicate follow-up treatments which would be required in this area forever.</p> <p>While the status quo may not be desirable, it does at least attempt to address population growth through Save a Gato's strategy of trap-neuter-release. A better investment of Federal fund would be to support this work and to support education of local residents so that they better understand the problem of feral animals. Unfortunately Puerto Rico has a long history of poor treatment of animals which has exacerbated the problem with the growth of feral animal populations. NPS should work to educate the local population to try to foster better attitudes toward the care and treatment of domestic animals, emphasizing the responsibilities of pet owners to look after the welfare of their animals. This could be carried out as part of an interpretive program to educate visitors on the history and lore of the local population of cats.</p> <p>Regarding the impact of the local cat population on wildlife, it should also be noted that the area in question has been an urban human settlement for over 500 years, and the impact of humans on local wildlife has been far worse than anything that the cats could do. It is not practical or desirable to maintain pre-settlement wildlife populations on every square acre of land, and the San Juan National Historic Site does not have a mission similar to El Yunque National Forest. You can not manage for every single value on every single acre of land.</p> <p>I suggest that Park management reconsider this proposed action, particularly in light of the hostile reaction on the part of the public to the action which has been reported in a number of newspapers throughout the U.S. This plan seeks to reduce a complex issue to a simple matter of black and white, and while management does require some simplification of the issue, it cannot be reduced to this binary choice. The people of Puerto Rico, their cats, and the U.S. taxpayers deserve better efforts from our National Park Service.</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. I am willing to provide additional comment and suggestions on how to proceed with management of this issue if desired.</p>
608	<p>The cats of Old San Juan are as traditional as mofongo. My wife and I have visited PR several times and never have we considered them a problem. In fact, we support Save A Gato for the work they do to help control the population while also caring for the cats in the community. We believe in their work so much, we adopted a kitten on our last trip. 'Leonard' has been with us for 8 years now and is a lovely reminder of the work Save A Gato and other organizations do to help these animals. Don't have them removed, instead provide more resources to places like Save A Gato so they can continue to do their job.</p>
609	<p>The cats deserve to be there, it's their home. Tourists love them and there are people taking care of them. LEAVE THEM ALONE!!</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
610	I am opposed to the removal of cats from the state park. Cats provide a uniqueness to the experience of visiting Old San Juan and the cats have as much of a right to be there and enjoy the outdoor experience as any human does. By not allowing cats this right and freedom, I would stop my future visits to any national parks in Puerto Rico (which I frequent quite often and usually encourage family and friends from out of town to visit) and encourage everyone I know to stop supporting.
611	I lived in San Juan all my life. Those cats should be left alone. They are friendly and many are probably adoptable
612	<p>I strongly object to removing the cat population from the Old San Juan for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The cat population at the Old San Juan has decreased significantly and will continue to decrease thanks to the Save A Gato organization and the TNR process. They have everything taken care of and, thanks to them, the cats that are currently there are mostly healthy, cared for, and not a threat to the human population at all. The cats are always minding their own business, they are harmless. 2. Removing the cat population from the Old San Juan will in turn cause more pest and rodent plagues. If you visit the Old San Juan, you will rarely see rats or roaches roaming the streets and parks, because the cats take care of them. The cats are pretty much free exterminators! 3. The cats are a cultural attraction for tourists. The amount of people I've seen get so happy taking pictures of and with the cats! They bring so much life and character to El Morro and the Old San Juan streets. 4. I, personally, love to go to the Old San Juan and visit el Morro for the sole purpose of visiting the cats, playing with them and taking pictures. And I know that I'm not the only person who does this. <p>Please, if this were an extreme situation where the cats are taking over the world and destroying everything, then I would understand why removing them makes sense. But right now, it makes no sense. They are NOT a threat, and what you SHOULD do is prevent people from abandoning cats at the Old San Juan (because that is the root of the problem) AND you should give funds to Save A Gato so that they can humanely keep neutering these cats and keep preventing overpopulation.</p>
613	Es responsabilidad de todos velar por el bienestar de los animales. No le hagan daño a esos gatos. Me opongo totalmente a cualquier plan para removerlos o causarles algún daño.
614	Please don't hurt the cats. Save a Gato is a great organization that is actually helping.
615	Me ha sorprendido mucho saber que se pretende eliminar la población felina en el VSJ. Todos saben que es una de las atracciones que más disfrutaban los visitantes, turistas y locales, de nuestra ciudad amurallada. Países como Turquía y Japón protegen institucionalmente a sus gatos callejeros, posicionándose mundialmente como países modernos y de avanzada con esa actitud progresista y humanitaria. Eliminar la población existente en SJ sería una noticia nefasta, que recorrería el mundo entero presentando a PR como una sociedad cruel e ignorante. Justo lo que no necesitamos! Ni hablar de el problema de plagas que actualmente controlan Los Gatos y se saldría de control. Por último, carece de toda lógica que se pretenda eliminar una población felina que actualmente es protegida y atendida por la entidad Save a

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Gato, en lugar de colaborar con dicha organización para aumentar su capacidad de atender y cuidar Los Gatos del VSJ. Entonces, vamos a actuar como salvajes eliminando Los Gatos y generando publicidad sumamente negativa para nuestra Isla, o vamos a dedicar mayores recursos para cuidar y proteger Los Gatos sanjuaneros, incluso presentándolos formalmente como el atractivo turístico que son? La respuesta es lógica. Solo espero que por esta vez las instituciones responsables actúen de forma lógica y tomen decisiones disparatadas.</p>
616	<p>Hello All,</p> <p>Please do not remove these cats from their environment. They have become an enjoyable part of the community by many folks locally and nationally. If anything, please work with the local community to find an agreeable resolution to your "concerns." I think if meetings are held with the local Old San Juan community you will be able to work through any major issues. I personally love contributing to the Save-A-Gato organization. I cannot express how excited and happy just finding this "hidden treasure" was upon visiting PR for the first time. We almost always make this our first stop when we return...</p> <p>Again, please do not make any hasty decisions. Work through this with the local community and find common ground!</p> <p>Thank you NPS for reading my comments!</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
617	<p>The destruction of cared for and beloved animals, feral or not, is unjust and a detriment to any city.</p>
618	<p>I'am against the removal of the cats of Old San Juan. Where do you plan to relocate these cats? Shelter's in PR are out of space and adoptions are scarce. Do you plan to euthanize them? This is not humanitarian.</p> <p>These cats are part of the history and culture of Old San Juan. They play a huge role in tourism. I have never seen or heard a tourist complaining about the cats, on the contrary they really enjoy seeing them. I personally enjoy my weekend strolls in Old San Juan and cat watching/petting, they are therapy to my soul. These cats are sterilized and fed by Save a Gato, who are doing a phenomenal job protecting them and keeping the population controlled.</p> <p>Why not spend these funds on education and surveillance so if someone tries to abandoned a cat in the established population they are fined and processed accordingly.</p> <p>Please evaluate other alternatives other than removing them.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
619	<p>Saludos!</p> <p>Le escribo para dejar mi sentir a través de este mensaje sobre el asunto de los gatitos del Viejo San Juan. Soy rescatista hace más de 6 años en la isla y ahora en los Estados Unidos, se y reconozco la excelente labor que hacen la entidad Save a Gato, esterilizando y vacunando cada gatito que convive allí y que ya es parte cultural del Viejo San Juan. Por tal motivo no representan ningún peligro o riesgo de salud a la comunidad ya que están en buen estado de salud, alimentados y en espacios abiertos. Por tanto, como puertorriqueña y amante de la biodiversidad, solicito e insto a la No remoción de estas comunidades de Gatos que además de estar bien cuidados ayudan a mantener a raya cualquier plaga de sabandijas que pueda</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>proliferar en el área. Espero puedan atajar situaciones que de verdad ameritan importancia como los edificios abandonados por ejemplo que traen problemas de salud y situaciones sociales y puedan respetar la vida de Los Gatos y su espacio en nuestro San Juan que como dije antes ya son parte de la cultura y el esplendor de la ciudad capital así como en países como Turquía y Japón donde son amados, cuidados y respetados, grandes ejemplos a seguir. Espero reconsideren sus acciones. Sin más que añadir;</p>
620	<p>No me quedaba claro la zona específica donde parques nacionales tiene jurisdicción. Es específicamente el paseo alrededor del morro. No incluye la zona del parque de baloncesto, tenis y juego.</p> <p>Los gatos en el área del paseo, para el que corre o camina la zona, no son un problema. Al menos no lo son para mí ni para mis hijas cuando lo corremos.</p> <p>Donde veo el mayor problema es en el área del parque y las canchas. La arena contaminada, donde no es agradable ni saludable para que los niños jueguen. El mal olor es considerable. El desagüe de Save a Gato que te salpica cuando caminas y deja un mal olor en toda esa área. Mis hijas se tapan la nariz al caminar por ahí. El uso y disfrute de esa área por parte de familias se afecta por las descargas de agua y el desequilibrio descontrolado de gatos alrededor.</p> <p>Es allí donde personas de todas partes abandonan gatos porque "allí está save a gato y ellos bregan con los gatos"</p> <p>Eso NO puede ser un area de abandono de gatos y quizás la solución es mover save a gato de ese lugar para frenar eso. El problema NO se resuelve si Save a Gato sigue allí y la gente continúa abandonando gatos en VSJ.</p> <p>El parque debe de remodelarse similar al del paseo la princesa, con pisos de goma, no de arena.</p> <p>Igual se le puede hacer un cerquillo al área para controlar que sólo entren niños.</p> <p>No estoy a favor de erradicar los gatos, estoy a favor de que las familias tengan un parque recreativo agradable en esa zona.</p> <p>Remover gatos del paseo no aporta en nada a esto.</p>
621	<p>The San Juan cats should be protected not removed. They are a staple of Old San Juan. My husband and I eloped there and made sure to include the cats in our photos. Many tourist loves the cats. Don't punish the cats because a few miserable people are complaining about the cats. Those are the same people that complain about every other thing in Puerto Rico that isn't native to their own culture. Ignorant tourists. You should be protecting the cats. Why don't you donate more time and funds to Save A Gato? Please consider the love of the cats by the people, the outrage that will follow if you do remove them among other consequences like rat population, disease, etc.</p>
622	<p>Save a gato has done great work, trapping neutering, releasing, feeding and overall taking care of the cats at el viejo San Juan. These cats have also help minimize the rat and mice situation in the area. Please dont take that away from San Juan. Japan and other countries have areas where there is a high cat population and rarely any mice. If you take away the cats you will have an over population of rats very soon and pigeons. There are a lot of food establishments and a lot of tourists frequent the area which makes a lot of food related trash. The cat population is well controlled. Keeping the cats as is and supporting the groups such as save a gato will keep San Juan clean and rat free.</p>
623	<p>I support Save A Gato, and everything they do to support and help the Cats in Old San Juan, and all San Juan. Im against anything National Parks wants to do, against the Cats community from Save A Gato. There are other things that Human do at el Morro and all of San Juan, that</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	you need to avoid and take care of those, that litter and use those area as Bathrooms. Do Not do anything with the cats, leave the Cats live there happy life.
624	Cats in Old San Juan are a great part of our culture, me and my family are incredibly disappointed by this immoral plan. There are wonderful hard-working foundations like Save A Gato, that have worked in the sterilization and feeding of the local cats for years and continue to do so. This plan is unnecessary and seems to be written by a group of egocentric people who think nobody likes cats just like them.
625	If you determine there is a "problem" and want posible solutions, you need to show the data that proves the problems. We haven't seen that. You are deciding there's a problen on your own, without proper investigation and data collection. Show. The. Data.
626	Do not remove cats from the Morro area. Eventually, they will end up killing them. Look for options for adoption. Leave the cats, they don't hurt anyone.
627	In PR the overpopulation of stray cats and dogs is overwhelming, even though over a 100 non profit organizations and individual rescuers have tried and tried to do more than they can to ameliorate the situation, problem persists. The municipalities don't have the economic resources to implement a regular spay/neuter program or at least some low cost clinics in some areas of the island to control the birth of so many animals that end up in our streets. Save a Gato has to done tremendous effort to do what is right to control the cat colony in Old San Juan and has done it without the help of the government (local or federal). Cats are not harmful creatures and these cats are fully vetted so they do not represent any health issues to the community, if anything they are contributing by maintaining the streets of San Juan rodent free. If National Parks still insist of getting rid of the cats I would suggest building several caticos (cat enclosures) close to where the colonies are, so SAG can control their cat population and prevent individuals from dumping kittens or cats from other places.
628	POR Q NO IGUALAMOS MEJOR LAS CONTUMBRES D TURQUIA Y ESOS PAISES ,Q LOS RECOGEN ,VACUNAN ESTERILIZAN MARCAN Y SUELTAN ELLOS TIENEN VIDA TAMBIEN Y SAN JUAN ES BIEN GRANDE ,SI LOS RESIDENTES BREGARAN MEJOR Y PUSIERAN D SU PARTE AYUDARIAN CON LA LABOR ,LOS GATOS AYUDAN CON LOS RATONES E INSECTOS MOLESTOSOS,ELLOS SON CARIÑOSOS Y PODRIAN SER TERAPIA EN MICHOS CASOS POR FAVOR BUSQUEMOS OTRA OPCION Y TRABAJEMOS CON EL PUEBLO Q NO QUIERE Q SE LOS LLEVEN D AHI ,ES SU HIGAR YA CONOCEN EL AREA Y LLEVAN AÑOS POR ALLI SE ALIMENTAN ,SE ESTERILISAN Y VACUNAN Q NO HACEN DAÑO A NADIE Q EL ALCALDE SE PONGA HACER LO Q TIENE Q HACER CON SAN JUAN Q BASTANTE ABANDONADO Q ESTA .MI HUMILDE IPONION ,ELLOS MERECE VIVIR NO MOLESTAN A NADIE Y SI NO LES GUSTAN LOS GATOS Q LOS ESPANTEN PERO LLEVARSELOS A EUTANIZAR COMO POR Q??SI LOS RESIDENTES NO SON LOS Q PAGAN LOS SERVICIOS Q SE LES DAN A ESTOS CALLEJERITOS Q YA SON PARTE DEL PASEO ,LA MAYORIA D LOS PUERTORRIQUEÑOS ESTAN ACOSTUMBRADOS A ELLOS ... ATT voluntaria MOSPBA
629	This is regarding the announced closing of the "paseo de Los Gatos" on the hiking trail behind El Morro, San Juan, Puerto Rico. A project that is beautiful in itself will come to an end due to lack of interest, compassion and kindness. Instead of closing the "paseo" and set a precedent allowing the removal and massive euthanization of stray domestic animals , what the government as the society guardians / directors , should do facilitate the improvement and safe maintenance of the park.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Create a program that will allow the cats to live freely , in Harmony with nature and humans. The program can facilitate a peaceful area where elderly, children, and regular people in need of an emotional reset Can enjoy. It can be a beautiful tourist attraction. Placing security on the area, which is very much needed, could prevent other undesirable people to leave cats or garbage behind. And offer security to the walkers and joggers that use the area on a daily basis , me included.</p> <p>I am no a fan of cats. But I feel happy when I see that the government provides, in an act of kindness, a home for them and allow us to pass by and feel happy watching them play. I am sure we are not talking about millions of dollars for that to happen. Offer a program to non profit organizations to do the work! Facilitate the people, do not take from them. Help. I am not asking to take absolute responsibility. Facilitate the work. Create the program, stipulate the rules on how you can collaborate and what needs to happen in order to make the program viable. Please do not commit an act of total dismiss of life. Give back kindness and gratitude to the society that is allowing you to have this job. Without the people to enjoy the parks, there would be no need for people like you and your team. Honor the responsibility and the opportunity to give.</p>
630	No contra el maltrato animal. Esos gatos están vacunados y esterilizados, No hay razón para matarlos
631	The cats at Old San Juan are part of our culture since many years ago. They control the rats for a healthy environment. Leave them alone!!! We loves our cats!!! And we provide food and medical services.
632	I am writing in strong opposition to this proposed plan. While vague in its description of "removal" of the cats, it is simply a plan to euthanize the cats. Killing these cats is unacceptable. Many visitors, including us, adopt cats from this site, which is a tourist attraction to many visitors. Old San Juan is not overrun by cats and the Save a Gato volunteers work very hard to tend to these cats. To kill off the cats would change a unique feature of the island. We urge you to work with Save a Gato to devise a humane plan to address any concerns. Killing the cats is a convenient but terrible idea. Please listen to these comments from people who visit Puerto Rico and support Save a Gato, Thank you
633	Favor dejar vivir la colonia de gatos en el área de El Morro. Están saludables y esterilizados, bajo el cuidado de la gente de Save a gato. Removerlos de allí, además de ser una crueldad, es innecesario. Esta acción traería a la zona de San Juan, que tiene tantos restaurantes, la proliferación de ratas y, por lo tanto, un serio problema de salud pública. Gracias.
634	A quien pueda interesar: Escribo en relación al asunto de los gatos en el paseo del Morro del VSJ. Usualmente suelo caminar en las tardes en dicho paseo y puedo dar fe del trabajo que hacen las personas voluntarios de Save a Gato. Desde hace muchos años los gatos habitan ese espacio y gracias a esta organización ahora están siendo alimentados y esterilizados. Aporto económicamente a dicha organización cuando puedo, ya que su labor es necesaria. Los gatos están ahí desde hace muchos años y sirven como control de plagas de roedores. No estoy de acuerdo con que remuevan los gatos. El paseo está en las afueras del Morro bordeando la orilla. Vienen turistas a tomarse fotos con los gatos del paseo e incluso algunos vienen para hacer voluntariado. Hay países como en Turquía que hay calles enteras donde los gatos son parte de su entorno. Deben entender también que hay gente que abandona a los gatos en el paseo y Save a Gato no recibe ayuda económica del gobierno, es mediante donaciones que logran hacer su labor. En vez de penalizar a los gatos deben dirigir sus esfuerzos a educar a las personas a que se hagan responsables de sus mascotas. Por último desconozco que piensan hacer con los gatos del paseo, la mayoría son gatos ferales, no domesticados, los albergues de animales están llenos, nadie adopta. Por si acaso, les recomiendo leer la Ley 154

Corr ID	Correspondence
	del 2008, ley para el bienestar y protección de los animales antes de que intenten siquiera eutanizar gatos que están siendo alimentados y cuidados. Recomiendo que dirigan sus esfuerzos en ayudar la labor de Save a Gato.
635	Señores, fui coordinadora de la labor por los gatos del Paseo del Morro por 10 años (2011-2021). Con la ayuda de un limitado grupo de excelentes voluntarios hicimos nuestra labor de cuidar, alimentar y esterilizar las colonias de gatos que allí habitan. Siempre seguimos las instrucciones de uds. para mejorar nuestro proyecto allí. De eso puede dar fe su colaborador el Sr. Félix López, quien siempre se mostró cordial y respetuoso hacia nuestra labor. Trabajar en armonía con uds es la ÚNICA solución a sus planteamientos. La mayoría de éstos, podrían solucionarse con un diálogo de apertura y cooperación. Lo único que NO es negociable es la remoción de los gatos. Agradezco la oportunidad de expresarme y confío en que podamos llegar a un justo acuerdo por el bienestar de los gatos, como se ha logrado en tantos otros lugares del mundo. Seamos un digno ejemplo de avance social, de respeto y convivencia !!
636	<p>En el día de ayer participe en la segunda reunion que ofrecio NP para escuchar la opinion del publico. Luego de escuchar los testimonios de los voluntarios de Save a Gato (99% del publico presente) me di cuenta que falta mucha educacion en temas de vida silvestre, ecologia de islas, biodiversidad, teoria de nichos, etc. Es mucho lo que tengo para decir pero me voy a limitar a dar comentarios utiles para que este plan sea uno real y que vuelva a quedar en la nada como en el 2005.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TNR no funciona en colonias abiertas como la del Viejo San Juan, donde hay un suministro o input de gatos que vienen de otras colonias de areas cercanas o que se los dejan. SAG confirmo que les dejan gatos continuamente. TNR unicamente es efectivo para controlar pequenias poblaciones cerradas. Hay mucha literatura publicada sobre esto, es importante que la resuman y la presenten en el plan. 2. Mas del 95% (o mas) de los voluntarios de SAG NO viven en VSJ, por lo tanto no pueden imponer a nuestra comunidad unas condiciones que no son justas para los que vivimos en la isleta y utilizamos el area de Paseo del Morro, parquecito de ninios, canchas de tennis. Es importante que cuando evaluen los comentarios muestren el lugar de residencia de la persona en relacion a la opinion. 3. El morro tiene vida silvestre, y como amantes de los animales debemos preocuparnos por todas las especies, en especial las nativas amparadas bajo la Ley Estatal de Vida Silvestre (#241). Los gatos son especies exoticas e invasivas, depredadores, y cazadores por naturaleza, principal causa de reduccion de aves en Estados Unidos. Hay muchas evidencia publicada sobre este tema, importante que la resuman y la incluyan al plan. 4. Habiendo tantos gatos tambien hay ratas en VSJ, es un mito que no las hay es cuestion de caminar en el anochecer, y mas aun en el area donde sobra comida de gatos. Las ratas son de habitos nocturnos, es poco probable que vean ratas durante el dia. Y tambien las ratas se deben controlar y exterminar, seguro nadie se va a quejar por eso. 5. Por definicion los gatos son especies introducidas e invasivas. Y en Viejo San Juan hay un grave problema de sobrepoblacion de gatos. 6. Hay muchos gatos enfermos y en condiciones de salud infrahumanas, eso es maltrato animal.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>7. SAG sobrealimenta a los gatos, y no se ocupa de limpiar sus desechos. El sentido de responsabilidad de estas personas es minimo, los gatos son mascotas no vida silvestre. Las mascotas viven con sus dueños humanos, no en las calles.</p> <p>8. Los gatos llegaron a la isla de PR traídos por los españoles, pasaron a ocupar una posición en la cadena alimenticia de depredador que no ocupaba ninguna especie en la isla. La teoría de efecto de "vacuum" es incorrecta, pues ningún depredador ocuparía ese "nicho ecológico", por el contrario, volvería la fauna nativa que ha sido desplazada del morro y sus alrededores.</p> <p>9. National Parks debe hacer un inventario de fauna y flora para evaluar esos cambios y demostrar que si hay un impacto ecológico (importante hacerlo antes y después de que se tomen las acciones de remoción de comederos)</p> <p>10. NP debe demostrar con datos porque TNR no funciona, es difícil persuadir si no se muestran datos.</p> <p>11. NP debe mostrar más firmeza y convicción en su postura basada en CIENCIA.</p> <p>12. SI NP va a convocar a la comunidad debe buscar la forma de integrar la opinión pública y buscar una solución razonable para la mayoría, de lo contrario sigan su plan y no pidan opiniones.</p> <p>13. En los terrenos de NP, el gobierno estatal no tiene injerencia, por lo tanto, quiten todos los comederos, y rápido se van los gatos de allí, pues ellos se quedan donde hay comida.</p> <p>14. Eviten disputas de eutanasia si o no, quiten todos los comederos del Paseo del Morro y demás terrenos de NP.</p> <p>15. Instalen letreros de TNR, y la importancia de no abandonar animales. Busquen estrategia de consenso, de lo contrario todo quedará en nada.</p> <p>Por cualquier consulta me pueden contactar.</p>
637	<p>Deseo que dejen los gatos en el viejo san juan ellos son ayudados por asociaciones y son vida por favor déjenlos allí</p>
638	<p>Please live Paseo la Princesa and El Morro cats live in peace in their natural habitat. Eliminating CATS will bring RATS!!!!</p> <p>Poison control of rats then will runoff to the sea and the reefs with the rains...</p> <p>Cats are an attraction and are part of Old San Juan, Puerto Rico... People are going to get really mad and is TOTALLY UNNECESARY and not a smart thing to do...</p> <p>Who is bothered by cats? Do you have a moron working in PR at a high level position? Leave Old San Juan Cats alone and fire whoever had that idea...</p> <p>Cats They don't bother anybody! even the tourists make videos about them...</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
639	<p>Leave the cats of Old San Juan, Puerto Rico alone. The locals are taking care of them. TRN programs, vaccination programs, and supplemental feeding. The cats are both vermin control and tourist attractions. Colonizer-culture &quot;science&quot; may deem all wild or feral predators need to be &quot;controlled&quot;; - AKA killed - but Colonizer-culture &quot;science&quot; is wrong. And has never, of all the wild or feral predators it's &quot;controlled&quot;;, made up for the lost in vermin control.</p> <p>Do not kill, by whatever name, the cats of Old San Juan. Period.</p>
640	<p>¡El TNR funciona! Lo vengo haciendo desde hace años en mi comunidad y hemos logrado controlar la sobrepoblación felina. Si se llevan a los gatos de una colonia del espacio que han hecho suyo, van a provocar un efecto de vacío que hará que otros gatos lo vuelva a poblar y no habrá nunca una solución.</p>
641	<p>I think this is an injustice to PR and it's history. The cats are a part of your culture! There are organizations who are helping maintain the health and size of the colony. Instead of &quot;population management&quot; by exterminating - maybe look into programs to help fund spay/neuters, vet bills for sick/injured and help educate people on the effects of stray cats.</p> <p>Understandably they can affect the ecosystem if they are not controlled, but keeping an eye on the health of the colony is more beneficial (politically too) than attempting to euthanize or minimize the numbers.</p> <p>You can educate prevention efforts, colonies are not permanent problems. The problem is people allowing unfixed cats out and about, procreating and causing growths in the colonies numbers.</p> <p>¡proteger a los gatos!</p>
642	<p>Como puertorriqueño orgulloso de mis raíces, sería muy triste ver que la comunidad mundial nos identifique como una nación que no es capaz de lidiar con la situación de los gatitos de El Viejo San Juan, como se recomienda se haga por todas esas personas e identidades que están luchando por el bienestar estos gatitos.</p> <p>Por eso los apoyo totalmente y espero que las pertinentes agencias gubernamentales también lo hagan para así llegar a una solución sin tener que llegar a actos no humanitarios.</p>
643	<p>One of the most beautiful things about San Juan are the cats at El Morro. As a New Yorker and as a Puerto Rican, I find it abhorrent that these cats would be "removed". With all the problems facing Puerto Rico since Hurricane Maria, that this is on the table of discussions, makes absolutely no sense. How about looking at all the positives and utilizing cat experts, humane organizations, and rescuers to work on spaying/neutering, vaccinations, adopting/fostering the social/friendly cats? Also, assisting those who are already caring for these community cats would be an easier and extremely helpful move. Having a cat colony management team of volunteers (maybe working with the current caretakers) in place to track new cats so that spaying/neutering can be done immediately, is another helpful move.</p> <p>There's a responsible and compassionate way of taking care of these community cats and then there is a cruel, inhumane way. Our family hopes the caring and responsible path is the chosen. Unfortunately, we will now have to add this to our table of concerns and will monitor this situation going forward. Thanks, in advance, for your attention to this matter.</p>
644	<p>I prefer that people know Old San Juan as the Capital of the Cats and not the Capital of the Rats.</p> <p>See this !!!!</p> <p>The best solution is to support the TNR efforts of Save a Gato.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	https://nypost.com/2021/05/13/chicago-releases-1000-cats-to-end-reputation-as-rat-capital/
645	<p>Dear SAJU Superintendent,</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for TNR, adoptable animal transport to areas where there is demand for adoption (such as within the mainland U.S.), and expanded low cost/no cost spay/neuter programs & education within Puerto Rico.</p> <p>TNR is the only humane and effective approach to managing community cats. Community cats live happy and healthy lives outdoors. However, since most community cats are not socialized or friendly to people, they cannot be adopted and live indoors, making community cats the most at-risk animals in shelters. They usually do not leave animal shelters alive. Catching and dumping OSJ's community cats into shelters will likely result in the mass killing of these cats.</p> <p>Studies show TNR stabilizes community cat populations by stopping the breeding cycle, thereby improving cats' lives by relieving them of the constant stresses of mating and pregnancy, while also vaccinating them against rabies. TNR benefits the public by stopping disruptive mating behaviors like yowling, spraying, roaming, and fighting. TNR also saves taxpayer money by reducing shelter intake, shelter euthanasia, and calls to animal control. Hundreds of communities have adopted an official TNR ordinance or policy, and thousands more conduct grassroots, volunteer-led programs, like Save a Gato. These numbers continue to rise as more communities realize the outdated approach of catching and killing cats is cruel and ineffective.</p> <p>Moreover, the proposed removal of the food bins along the Paseo will not effectively deter cats from the area. Feeding bans have been shown to be ineffective in decreasing community cat populations. These cats do not depend on people feeding them to survive. As scavengers, cats will find food in garbage cans and dumpsters. Cats are territorial, bonded to their surroundings, and will not leave simply because compassionate people can no longer legally feed them. Ultimately, a feeding ban will result in cats roaming farther to find food and digging through people's trash.</p> <p>Instead, expanding access on the island to low cost or no cost spay/neuter programs will greatly reduce the population of unwanted, abandoned animals flooding areas like OSJ where misguided individuals dump their cats, knowing someone else will care for them. This is not just a cat problem in OSJ, but a Commonwealth-wide problem of dumping unwanted cats and dogs. Indeed, there is an area on the south side of the island colloquially known as Dead Dog Beach, reflecting this practice and its unfortunate effects on the environment and the animals that are dumped.</p> <p>Studies show that in homes where the income was \$35,000 or higher, almost all cats (around 93%) were neutered, while 75% of unneutered cats live in homes where the income was less than \$35,000. (Data from alleycat.org). The lower-income owners who were interviewed primarily cited high cost as the reason for not sterilizing their cats.</p> <p>With much of Puerto Rico's population living below the poverty line, spay/neuter is inaccessible. Thus, unwanted cats are often dumped in Old San Juan or other areas of the island, as the perceived only viable alternative to humanely unload the burden of unwanted pets. Thus, education and access to low cost/no cost sterilization resources is key. Let's tackle the problem at its root, rather than band-aid the symptoms.</p> <p>I propose the National Park Service partner with local government, Save a Gato, and organizations like the Humane Society, to facilitate implementation of regular low cost/no cost spay/neuter initiatives in OSJ. This will reduce the effects of animal dumping and the burden on the underfunded, 100% volunteer group that is Save a Gato. This should be a catalyst to implementing low cost/no cost sterilization island wide, to truly address this</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>problem once and for all. Education and access to sterilization resources will humanely curb the population of unwanted animals. Not catch and elimination. Not TNR without resources or support. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
646	<p>The Cat Colony taken care by Save a Gato should be preserved and protected. The Colony is estimated to be around 100-120 cats. As per the information I have received the cats are registered, have names and all the Voluntaries can identify them. All of them vaccinated and spayed and neutered. I would suggest the Cat Register should be submitted to the Authorities and updated on a regular basis, in any case these records are available for revision upon request. Most of the other cats roaming in Old San Juan have been abandoned by irresponsible people and this should not be a reason to penalize the Save a Gato Colony which has been taken care with love and responsibility. Like in many other important cities of the world, cats are a tourist attraction and they also provide control of rats and other unwanted pests. I suggest to post signs in the area explaining the history of the Old San Juan Cats and the efforts of Save a Gato to preserve them, and at the same time inform that violations to Law 154, like abandoning animals in the area will be punished with fines.</p> <p>Regarding the other cats that are not registered under the Save a Gato custody, a census could provide an idea of how many cats are living in the area. The Municipality of San Juan can work with Save a Gato and local Rescue Groups to look for alternatives for them, both parts having in mind that is not possible to save them all but neither should they be euthanized in mass without a discussion of alternatives to preserve their lives. Also the Municipality of San Juan should cooperate with funds and resources for the Spay and Neuter efforts needed for the cats. Puerto Rico's Population should become more compassionate and responsible with our animals, and the model used with the Old San Juan cats can be an example on how people can coexist with animals with respect and tolerance.</p>
647	<p>The feral cats living in Paseo de la Princesa and Old San Juan have been a part of the landscape for a long time. They are cared for and attended to by hardworking professionals who look after their health and well being. As you may know, Save a Gato has been effectively practicing the TNR method with these feline communities for more than a decade. Removing the cats takes away a very effective and natural pest control system, without which Old San Juan would be flooded with rats and other vermin. I am writing to implore you to not remove these cats and take them to a shelter where they will be killed. The well known fact that gentrification has already come to Puerto Rico (and especially areas like OSJ) leads me to believe this effort has more to do with the private interests of foreign capital than the local community. Many of us love these animals dearly and would be heartbroken to see them removed. Help us save and care for the cats, not remove and kill them!</p>
648	<p>The feral cat population is a nuisance that should not be allowed to continue in the same filth and disgusting conditions that it has been allowed to carry on under for the last 21 years. Feeding stray animals does nothing but encourage them to breed, defecate, urinate and make a nice trail into a disgusting feces alleyway. While the national park service cannot control what goes on in the feces and trash covered streets of Old San Juan, there should be absolutely no stray feral animals along the path or within the confines of National Park Service property. Whoever allowed such filth to take a foothold should be ashamed and their mindset should be eradicated from Park Service management plans.</p> <p>Get rid of the cats. Get rid of the iguanas. Disallow stray and feral animal feeding on park</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	property. Do not allow federal property or federally maintained resources to fall to the same poor management tendencies visible throughout the rest of Puerto Rico. The disgusting conditions along the trail are a health hazard and the national park service has a responsibility to visitors and taxpayers to eliminate them.
649	We visit Puerto Rico specifically for these cats! They are the best part of our trips and a national treasure.
650	<p>Saludos!</p> <p>No estoy de acuerdo con la remoción/ eutanasia de los gatos del Viejo San Juan. Se crearía el efecto vacío y esto propiciaría que lleguen otros gatos y volvamos a empezar con gatas paridas, peleas, etc.</p> <p>Además de que estos gatos ferales no son adoptables e irían directo a la crueldad de hacerle una eutanasia por el simple hecho de existir.</p> <p>En Puerto Rico existen Leyes que prohíben esta práctica. Podemos convivir con ellos y sobre todo ser empáticos con todas las especies con las que compartimos este mundo. Vivimos en un mundo lleno de diferentes especies!</p> <p>Gracias,</p>
651	<p>Hola, tengo 11 años. Yo he vivido en Puerto Rico casi toda mi vida. Yo he conocido los gatos desde los cuatro años. Son mis mejores amigos por mucho tiempo. Yo he amado los gatos desde que yo tenía cuatro años también, pero el año pasado lo he amado más que nunca y me comprometí a visitarlos todos los lunes por la tarde. Nosotros somos amigos. Yo le di comida a ellos, porque necesitaban eso, y en cambio ellos le daban amor. En los próximos meses que yo empecé a poner nombres a los gatos. Yo amo a los gatos tanto que en mi cumpleaños los visite. Uno que era mi favorito yo llamé Fester. Fester le gustaba amor más que comida. Uno se llamaba Oaty porque su color era el color de avena. El era mi favorito porque él solamente quería amor. Una llamada Trixie es muy tímida pero en mi año con ella, se está acercando los humanos. Una gato bella y linda era la más tímida de todos, y pusimos el nombre Ginger. Al principio ella no permitía que yo tocara pero ahora ella me deja.</p> <p>Pero probablemente mi favorito es Little Suart. Little Suart es muy amoroso y ronronea cuando lo tocas. Todos los gatos son muy amoroso y yo no he visto una que hace daño a los humanos. Y Save a Gato tiene a todos con sus orejas cortadas . Yo no he visto uno que no está con la oreja cortada. ¿Por qué no hay ratas en el Viejo San Juan? Por los gatos. Por favor no mata a mis amigos!</p>
652	<p>https://photos.google.com/photo/AF1QipPBH96phk0Sl4ITma7BR5L_wBle_4ncM4LySMck</p> <p>Please click this link.</p> <p>This is a picture of me with my friends, the cats.</p> <p>Please don't kill them.</p> <p>TNR works. The problem is that people abandon their cat outside of Save a gato.</p>
653	this policy to remove the cats from VSJ parklands is appalling.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>it will result in the wholesale slaughter of old san juan's cultural heritage and generate an ethical and ecological calamity.</p> <p>not only are the &quot;cobblestone cats&quot; much beloved by locals and tourists alike and featured in countless guidebooks and calendars and memories, but they play a vital rile in VSJ in keeping the rodent population down. this is why they were introduced and without them, you're going to set off another &quot;wolves of yellowstone&quot; debacle.</p> <p>the community does not support this and rounding up and removing/killing cats from the land they will clearly keep gravitating to (all the greenbelt) will harm san juan severely.</p> <p>there are no studies or data here, just a bad idea that should not move forward.</p> <p>i cannot state strenuously enough:</p> <p>this is ill conceived, unsupported, and should be abandoned completely.</p>
654	<p>No estoy de acuerdo con la remoción de los gatos de Viejo San Juan pues son parte del atractivo turístico de la zona. Son animales amigables con quienes visitamos Viejo San Juan, sirven de compañía y se ocupan de mantener las plagas como ratones, cucarachas y otros, al mínimo. Somos muchos quienes queremos y disfrutamos la presencia de estos gatos en Viejo San Juan y sería un error eliminarlos de allí.</p>
655	<p>no saquen ni le hagan daño a los gatos</p>
656	<p>Los gatos del Viejo San Juan además de ser inofensivos y un atractivo turístico, ayudan con el control de plagas como las ratas. En lugar de buscar removerlos deberían brindar apoyo económico para que Save A Gato pueda continuar con su maravillosa labor de cuidar de estos animalitos.</p>
657	<p>Estoy de acuerdo en que los gatos permanezcan en donde están. Si los sacan de allí, no hay garantía de que continuen con vida, lo que van a hacer es sacrificarlos y ellos no lo merecen. SAVE A GATO está haciendo una ESTUPENDA labor con ellos. Los turistas los aman y de eso hay prueba en las redes sociales. Ellos atraen viajeros que son amantes de los gatos a visitar nuestra isla y tanto a ellos como a nosotros los que vivimos aquí nos encanta disfrutar viendo como los gatos embellecen el paisaje en el área del paseo. Ellos no le hacen daño a nadie, algunos son cariñosos y otros tímidos, pero no son peligrosos como quieren hacer ver. Y no estén exagerando con lo de las enfermedades que podrían portar los gatos que no somos tan estúpidos, sabemos buscar información científica y orientarnos. Dicen que hay olor a orina y heces, pero los humanos también hacen sus necesidades por ahí. No entiendo como en un país "civilizado" como éste no se puede cohabitar en paz con unas criaturas tan maravillosas como son los gatos. Aquí no hay respeto por la vida, menos por la naturaleza. El gobierno no ayuda. Tienen que legislar para controlar los altos costos en las clínicas veterinarias privadas, fiscalizarlos, por ejemplo: el monopolio que tienen con los medicamentos veterinarios. Cooperar con los albergues, santuarios y otras organizaciones sin fines de lucro. Establecer clínicas en cada municipio o por lo menos en cada región que ofrezcan esterilizaciones y vacunaciones libres de costo para que la ciudadanía pueda llevar sus mascotas y no tengan que seguir aumentando los animales realengos. Se quejan de que la población en el área ha aumentado en lugar de disminuir pero es que por los altos costos de vida y de servicios veterinarios, qué opción tienen algunas personas que no cuentan con los medios económicos para esterilizar sus gatos? Los abandonan en lugares donde piensan que van a tener una oportunidad de sobrevivir! Por qué en otros paises, algunos hasta con menos</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>recursos que el nuestro, pueden tener alternativas para tratar a estas criaturas con dignidad? Existen muchas ciudades e islas (ej: Istambul en Turquía, Mykonos en Grecia) que tienen una gran población de gatos que conviven con los humanos y que reciben un alto tráfico de turistas del mundo entero que los visitan, cautivados por su población gatuna. Se les permite caminar libremente, entrar en los comercios, son alimentados y hasta cobijados cuando es necesario por los propios ciudadanos. Aquí se quejan de que las estaciones de alimentación afean la ciudad y que atraen las ratas (más ratas y otras plagas van a tener sin los gatos) pero hay otras alternativas más sofisticadas (ej: contenedores en acero inoxidable con puertas magnetizadas, comederos y bebederos usando tubos de PVC) para eso SAVE A GATO NECESITA la ayuda del gobierno tanto estatal como municipal. En mi opinión creo que más que los gatos deberían preocuparles el daño que ocasionan otras especies como las iguanas y la peor de todas, los humanos, que no cuidan los recursos naturales y culturales. NINGUNA de las razones que brindan para eliminar los gatos del área que ocupan es válida. Otros países pueden, pues aquí también! Como gobierno comiencen a trabajar, dejen ya de tanto perder el tiempo y el dinero en politiquerías, ayuden a organizaciones como SAVE A GATO que se preocupan por los que no tienen voz, que tanto sufren por culpa de los humanos abusadores.</p>
658	<p>Taking the cats of San Juan is not beneficiary neither for the government and the people who live at San Juan, its their habitat. Also they are cats that are castrated and vaccinated wich means they don't mean any harm to the people visiting San Juan or the tourists. I hope the government reconsiders this and helps Thai cats by giving them food at least and not getting them removed from where they live.</p>
659	<p>Hi</p> <p>In Puerto Rico, we love our animals. We DO NOT want them murdered. I wil communicate with the media about this abuse!</p>
660	<p>SAJU superintendent Att: walk cats</p> <p>Hi!</p> <p>I want to oppose the measures to euthanize the stray cats from old san juan. These cats do not pose a risk to society. First of all, Most of the stray cats around the national park are part of a TNR program that ensures vaccination and sterilization. These cats are not aggressive, they do not attack, in the contrary, they can be friendly or they are simply minding their business and not making contact with anyone.. Furthermore, they are part of our society and we dont want them removed, instead they should be protected and yes, they are part of the cultural landscape. Cats are very clean animals, and they perform their necessities in soil but if no one maintains the area it will obviously smell. We ask for better maintenance and hygiene on the areas they occupy on behalf of the parks. The areas could use the attention anyway, cats or not cats. This would be a much better solution than to get rid of them. Also , the organization (Save a gato) provides vaccination, feeding and sterilization and could use some support to keep ensuring vaccination which is essential to avoid diseases. Moreover, on the contrary as stated by the national parks, cats prevent plague. In regards of diseases such as toxoplasmosis, the same is transmitted by touching or ingesting infected soil... no one is going to be pursposely touching or ingesting soil.</p> <p>Please learn from other countries such as Turkey, which protect their animals by law The government has</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	sought measures to maintain hygiene while protecting their cats. .IThey have 120,000 plus cats in the city of Istanbul which coexist with soceity and are not harmed by anyone. This shows kindness , initiative and problem soultion. Lets emmulate this behavior.
661	<p>No estoy de acuerdo con el plan para remover a los gatos que vieven en el viejo San Juan. Estas bellas creaturas no tienen porque ser eliminados ya que mantienen a San Juan limpio de ratas y mantienen la felicidad de la comunidad. A ellos se les trata y se les cuida gracias a Save A Gato y todos los voluntarios que se esfuerzan por cuidar de las criaturas. El matarlos a todos NO es la solución, hay muchas otras cosas que sí son problemas que merecen ser atendidos como la basura que se ve en las calles y las muchas carreteras sin cuidar/ reparar llenas de rotos que sí nos afecta como comunidad. Después de muchos años que los gatos llevan cuidando de San Juan ahora quieren hacer algo por eso el cual ni es un problema? Porqué? No hay razón valida para matar a todos los gatos inocentes que son parte de la comunidad de San Juan igual que lo son las personas que viven allí o que visitan. Solo porque pocas personas de afuera se quejan de ellos no significa que la mayoría de nosotros que sí adoramos todos esos gatos debemos ser hechados a un lado e ignorados cuando decimos que no es justo y es inmoral. Es más lo positivo que los gatos aportan que lo poco negativo y de seguro hay un sinnúmero de soluciones mejores que exterminarlos. Yo apoyaré hasta el final el mantener los gatos vivos y en San Juan, lo que quieren hacer es inhumano y no piensan en que los gatos son seres vivos que nosotros la comunidad AMAMOS y continuaremos apoyando y protegiendo</p>
662	<p>The cats of San Juan are iconic - many people go out of their way while visiting the country to see this special city due to the cats. The cons of the cats, remaining as they have for centuries, does not outweigh the pros IMO.</p>
663	<p>Strong preference for cats over rats! Have you considered catch, spay and then release? In my area they dock the ear of spayed cats and release them to continue their pest control duties. This controls population growth, avoids euthanizing cats, seems to balance competing agendas.</p>
664	<p>Save the cats of VSJ! As a visitor to Old San Juan I implore you to drop the nonsensical notion of removing the colonial cats. They are an integral part of PR and also serve a serious purpose of controlling the disease carrying rodent population.</p> <p>Leave the cats alone!!! There is NO reason to remove the cats. Just stop!</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
665	<p>Simply, NEUTER, SPAY.</p>
666	<p>I strongly oppose any plan to disturb the cats of Viejo San Juan in any manor. This is a terrible idea, leave them alone to live and roam free. Regards</p>
667	<p>Dear Sirs</p> <p>I write as someone who has visited beautiful San Juan on a good number of very happy occasions. I am saddened, indeed shocked, that you are looking to depopulate San Juan of cats.</p> <p>This is a woeful proposal, and will inevitably lead to a huge rodent problem.</p> <p>The cats are part of the heritage and beauty of this special place, and live in wonderfully symbiotic harmony with the people.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>I urge you in the strongest terms not to get ahead with this plan.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention, and I hope and trust you choose to reverse this plan.</p> <p>Yours faithfully</p>
668	<p>My understanding is this would not only be inhumane (they'll undoubtedly be killed), it'd have the opposite of the intended impact for both tourists and residents alike as the cats are beloved and part of the experience, and they also keep hoards of disease ridden rats at bay. I staunchly disagree with the proposal to remove or limit in any way the cats. Please quickly reconsider.</p>
669	<p>Leave the cats of old San Juan alone.</p>
670	<p>Do not kill the cats. You will regret it. The control vermin and entertain the people. Invest in a local veterinary clinic. Spay the female cats. Neuter the male cats. Mark those that have been sterilized with an ear notch to identify easily. Do as many as required to stabilize the numbers. Become heroes by adding a hospital for those requiring medical care. Finance it with charitable donations from tourists.</p>
671	<p>As someone who has been to San Juan several times and thoroughly enjoyed the cats of Old San Juan, I want to express my strong opposition to the plan to remove them. They are a cultural heritage and beloved feature of OSJ, but they are also there for a health and safety purpose: to control the vermin population. Rats are disease carrying, dangerous animals and have historically caused many problem in San Juan. The ancient buildings are the perfect breeding ground for fast-reproducing vermin and the cats were originally introduced to control them. They still perform that function today in a perfectly symbiotic relationship with the residents and tourists who frequent the spot. This is a solution looking for a problem and in no way benefits OSJ, the ecosystem, or the community. Puerto Rico doesn't have any shortage of birds, lizards, iguanas, or other small creatures that cats might hunt - meanwhile they do have a controlled vermin population without needing poisons or other toxic compounds. Leave the cats alone!</p>
672	<p>Why on Earth do you wish to create a problem where none exists, & ruin a 500 year old history & tourist attraction in the process???</p>
673	<p>you are a guest on this planet just like the cats, and all life on earth. what gives you the right to determine what can live and what must die? monsters are not welcome here, and that means you murderers</p>
674	<p>I vote FOR keeping the cats! substantive argument. Currently MANY CATS, VERY FEW RATS under your plan MANY RATS because you'll kill the CATS</p>
675	<p>I recall very fondly all of the charming cats of old San Juan from my visits to Puerto Rico. I'm appalled and saddened that the park service is considering removing them. They have been there for such a very long time, and do not appear to be causing any dramatic or sudden harms as they have been there for so long. It seems to me that the best solution is to leave them alone. Clearly one of jobs cats do is eliminate rodent infestations. I live in New York City. Rat infestations are no fun. We don't have feral cats, but we do have feral rats. It seems to me that that's the trade off. I strongly encourage you to enjoy your feral cats, and be thankful for the absence of feral rats.</p>
676	<p>Can't you find something better to do than kill a bunch of cats that entertain the tourists and keep out the rats? Or are you the rats?</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
677	<p>Please consider my comment on the NPS plan to remove cats from Old San Juan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It will be a public relations nightmare. 2. Tourism will be harmed. 3. It is important to give respect to the historic reason for the use of cats: Fermin control. 4. It is a tone-deaf reaction to a public concern. 5. Leadership is a responsibility best carried out in a deft manner. 6. Citizenship is a responsibility best carried out by an alert public. 7. It is imperative that consideration for such a decision should be made by the people who live and work in San Juan. 8. The NPS has a storied history of service in our nation and must keep the highest standards in decision-making. 9. Please tread lightly on this issue. <p>Thank you.</p>
678	<p>Dear sirs,</p> <p>I have visited San Juan several times over the last 15 years. I love the cats, they are a part of the city and add much enjoyment to the experience. As far as I can see they are not a nuisance in any way, unlike the rats which would almost certainly start to proliferate in their absence!</p> <p>Please keep these beautiful animals, I would be far less inclined to visit again if they were gone.</p>
679	<p>Save the cats! The law of unintended consequences directly applies here. Remove the cats and then what takes over - rodents. Do not make change just for the sake of change! These cats are an important part of ecosystem and add to the charm of Old San Juan. Plus. they are actively promoted for tourism and are ncluded in guidebooks, calendars, etc, etc..., What will happen to these cats? Be honest about it. If you're going to kill them all, the public needs to know the truth.</p>
680	<p>Please don't kill the cats - theyre a vital part of the park eco system, controlling the rat population which would otherwise overwhelm both the park and the town beyond. They are also a tourist attraction and much loved by visitors & locals alike so please resist the urge to exterminate anything which didn't actually evolve in a park and value the cats as part of the rich history of the park</p>
681	<p>Leave the cats in San Juan. Go to Paris and you will see what happens when you take the cats away. Dog poo all over the streets as the people just exchanged cats for dogs, and the rats are as big as cats in the parks.</p>
682	<p>These cats have been a fixture for 500 years. Leave them alone.</p>
683	<p>You guys never learn anything. Remember Yellowstone?! Or closing down the National Parks during Covid?!</p> <p>The cats have lived there for 500 years.</p> <p>Let them be.</p>
684	<p>I have learned that the cats of San Juan, Puerto Rico are to be removed and likely exterminated. A 500 year arrangement between those cats and the people of Old San Juan would be broken by governmental caprice.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Don't do it. I'd ask why you want to increase the rat population—which you must if you want to get rid of the cats—but I don't care to read some apparatchik's platitudes. Just don't do it.
685	<p>DO NOT KILL/EUTHANIZE THE CATS OF OLD SAN JUAN!</p> <p>THERE ARE HUMANE TRAP/NEUTER/RETURN METHODS OF KEEPING CAT POPULATIONS UNDER CONTROL AND THE CATS KEEP THE RODENT VERMIN POPULATIONS UNDER CONTROL.</p> <p>IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT - THE CATS OF OLD SAN JUAN ARE A BELOVED PART OF PUERTO RICO AND THEY DESERVE TO BE CHERISHED!</p>
686	Please do not try to "fix" what isn't broken. The cats of San Juan are much beloved and do no harm. In fact, they do good. They keep the rat population in check. That's why they were put there in the first place!
687	Dear Sir/Madam - I recently learned of the initiative to remove the cats of Old San Juan. While overpopulation can be a problem, as well as health for these felines, charities and adoption are the answer to overpopulation. Old San Juan has been blessed with these cats for hundreds of years; it's a part of their culture and history. The residents and charity groups should take care of the cats, not the NPS. Leave the history and culture alone. Let the residents decide what is best to do.
688	<p>Dear Sir/Madam,</p> <p>I have worked with feral colonies for many years. Colonies can indeed help reduce rat/rodent populations that can grow out of control without natural mechanisms, like cats in the area. Washington, DC had to employ colonies of cats to help reduce their rat problem and it has worked. No chemicals, which hurt other wildlife, either. Additionally, all cats will be spayed and neutered so the colony does not get too big. This is reasonable. I ask you to please release the studies that show the negative impacts of the San Juan cats, the actual logic behind those studies and if they are unbiased. I aske you to provide what alternative would be done, when and how.</p> <p>Please leave the San Juan cats as is. They are a beautiful addition to San Juan city.</p> <p>Best Regards,</p>
689	I would like to add my recommendation to the many recommendations in favor of keeping the cats of San Juan in place. They are a delightful component of the culture and experience, and they provide a public service by maintaining their balance between predators and prey. Yes to cats no to rats!
690	Save the cats. They have been there for over 500 years without problems. In fact, they are helping to keep the rodent infestation to a minimum. Nothing should be done to the cats without the approval of the local citizens. It is not your responsibility to make this decision!
691	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>I understand that there's a plan to remove the cats of Old San Juan Puerto Rico. I believe this is not only unnecessary but outright harmful. Cats control rodents and in this case add to the charm of the location. Both locals and visitors have no problem with the presence of the cats there. A problem is being created here by attempting to remove the cats, when no problem exists. If any evidence emerges to the contrary then I'll gladly change my mind but in the</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	meanwhile I strongly urge you to let the cats stay where they are and not be removed. Thank you.
692	Please let the cats stay. They control the rodent population and they are gorgeous and a draw for tourists.
693	Sometimes the government, well let's be honest, often the government finds a problem where there is no problem and creates a problem so they can feel relevant and honestly fuel their continued existence or maybe they want another program, to hire more folks and we all can agree a "bloated" anything is not attractive nor highly functioning. I have lived long enough and seen enough of government to know this is one of those times. The cats are not a problem to the tourists, the residents or each other and have managed to survive since being brought here by the Spanish despite human intervention. Don't create a problem where there is not a problem. Leave the cats alone and try to do better with the programs you currently fund. Get rid of the cats and you will be responsible for more rats and disease than you can control.
694	Please consider contacting Alley Cat Allies (https://www.alleycat.org/) for advice on a TNR program. TNR (trap, neuter, release) protects the health of community cats while preventing overpopulation. TNR allows cats to remain in their communities without the need to trap and kill. Alley Cat Allies has helped many cities implement TNR programs. Thank you for considering this more humane option.
695	Do NOT remove the cats from Old San Juan! The cats are a biological and historical treasure being descendants of the original Colonial Spanish cats from the 15th century. Would you destroy Michelangelo's David for spurious reasons? The quaint cats of San Juan keep the rats at bay if you need evidence of them providing a practical service but honestly their cuteness and beauty should suffice. People LOVE animals and abhor the idea of violence against them, murdering these beautiful creatures will be a blot on the soul of the National Parks Service.
696	Free cats are kind of wildlife. Everytime man tried to adress anything wildlife, it turned out to failure. Nature is nature. Don't touch wildlife. Don't touch Old San Juan free cats. Thank you.
697	I think reducing/eliminating the population of cats of San Juan may very well cause an explosive growth in the population of rodents. As long as the cats aren't starving because there are too many competing for too little food and large numbers of the public aren't being harmed, the cats should be left alone. At most, a neutering program or adoption program could be tried to slow the population growth.
698	My family frequently visits Old San Juan and we are thinking about purchasing a property there. One of the things we love about the area is going to visit the "cat park" together. I was horrified to read that there is a proposal under consideration that would eliminate this cat population, likely through euthanasia. This is a cruel proposal and one that, I think, does little to consider how this will impact the region in unintended ways and what this means for the future. Cats tamp down the rat population. Coming off of a global pandemic, I would think all governmental agencies have a strong interest in reducing vectors of disease in the community. Even if an initial effort to rid OSJ of its beautiful cat population succeeds, what then? Many people adopt kittens or have pet cats who are not spayed/neutered and then look to get rid of the cats when they grow up from kittens or to dump all the kittens when their pet cat gives birth. Right now, Save a Gato does a wonderful job of caring for the stray cats and ensuring they are spayed/neutered to prevent the cat community to continue to grow through birth. Ridding OSJ of its existing stray cats will not prevent people from continuing to dump cats - it simply means the infrastructure currently in place to responsibly care for these cats

Corr ID	Correspondence
	and keep the population in check will collapse. There will be a lot more feline suffering but likely only a short dip in the cat population if this proposal is enacted. My husband, daughter, and I stand firmly opposed to this proposal and can say as tourists that visiting these cats is a highlight of our frequent trips to La Isla Encanta and that we see many other tourists enjoying the cats or interested in the cats and taking photos every time we visit the cat park. We hope you will consider the input of your frequent visitors and hopeful future homeowners as you weigh the proposal at hand.
699	Puerto Rico is my happy place, my second home and one of the things I look forward to most when visiting is to see, feed and spend time with the cats in Old San Juan. I have been visiting Puerto Rico my whole life & Save A Gato has been a God Send for these cats. They spat/neuter and provide health services for the beautiful cats. They feed them and shelter them when needed as well. They provide homes for them too. Throughout my life I have seen stray dogs and cats all over the island and prayed for them to have help. Save A Gato answered my prayers as did other agencies that are helping other animals in the area. I have never seen a cat attacking other wildlife when I have been there. Of course it is possible, but it may happen only just as much as things to in the wild. I do not believe that these cats are eradicating any particular part of the ecological system where any animal in the area is becoming endangered or extinct because of the cats. The cats do not create an unsanitary area for visitors or neighbors. The cats only bring positivity and love to the area. I implore you to not remove these cats and Save A Gato.
700	Removing the cats from San Juan is akin to removing the wolves in Yellowstone. When you take the cats away, the rats will swarm. This intervention is unnecessary, potentially very unethical, and misguided. Leave the cats.
701	Please do not remove the cats from the national park in San Juan! Not only do they provide historical uniqueness, they also keep the balance of nature in check in the area. Without this natural resource keeping the number of unwanted rodents down, I believe the rodent population will grow in the area
702	This comment is in regards to the cats that roam the streets of Old San Juan. I implore the NPS to rethink their potential plan of action and let the cats stay. The cats keep the rodent population in check. Haven't we learned from history? The cats are also a draw to the majority of the visitors of Old San Juan, but on the flip side, how many visitors would be turned away if there was an explosion in the rat population? The preferable plan of action would be to implement a rigorous TNR (trap neuter return) program to keep the colony managed over time.
703	It remains my fond wish to visit the cats of san juan. The cats provide a varmint removal service, with centuries of experience. Don't do damage to them.
704	When we visit Puerto Rico we see that the cats of old San Juan are a beautiful feature of the city. Removing them will increase the rat population, which would be a major problem. The rats will overtake the city and ruin it! Then what will you do!
705	I have been planning a trip JUST to see the cats, as I did to Key West for Hemingway's...let them remain!!! The idea the NPS would eliminate such a beloved and iconic aspect of this area is horrific. These animals are key to keeping diseases at bay, like plague from rats, and are clearly treasured by locals and tourists alike. Don't do this, please.
706	Please do not remove the cats of San Juan. I would like to visit one day and see them as I have heard many great things about them.
707	The cats of Old San Juan provide a unique tourist attraction. More importantly, they keep the plague rats from taking over the city. There is a reason the cats were originally introduced to

Corr ID	Correspondence
	the area. Let's NOT make the mistake of removing them to only then have to figure out how to get rid of plague bearing rats and fleas that live on tbe rats. Please leave the cats.
708	Please, save the cats of Old San Juan. They are a beloved and integral part of the experience. They have existed happily there for 500 years. They are part of the ecosystem. Tourists love them. Thank you.
709	Save a Gato already works to enable adoption of cats from the colony, with successful mainland US adoptions taking place. Rather than coming in with a heavy hand and killing these wonderful cats, why not direct resources toward assisting with these adoption efforts? Additionally, providing resources to enable all residents with cats to have their cats spayed/neutered and investing in educational campaigns to support this effort will also help to reduce future stray cat populations. A reasonable approach is one that partners with community organizations, such as Save a Gato, and supports the work it is doing to further governmental aims rather than coming in and just killing this wonderful cat population. If you won't take this tourist's word for it that these cats are a tourist destination, I can only surmise the comment period on this poorly documented proposed program is to carry out the requisite steps with no intention of ever entertaining the considerations a governmental body is required to before initiating such a proposal.
710	Do NOT harm the cats of Puerto Rico! This is inhumane, unthinkable, cruel!
711	Dear NPS, I have concerns with the removal of cats from Old San Juan. The cats are a valuable part of the city. As a tourist, I can confirm that the cats definitely enhance the experience and make Old San Juan a much more interesting vacation destination. The NPS states that they want to remove the cats because they are a nuisance, but no specifics are provided. What specific nuisance do these cats pose? The cats serve a valuable purpose of removing rats from the old city (a problem most old cities face). I think everyone would prefer cats to rats. Also, it appears the NPS plans to remove the cats only from part of the city. Cats tend to move freely and will likely just return if they are moved to another part of the city. However, it occurs to me the NPS may have another plan for the cats. If the plan is euthanization then I strongly object. These cats have served the city of Old San Juan as valuable rat exterminators and they should be rewarded - not killed. The policy the NPS is pursuing seems to be trying to fix a problem that does not exist. There are many unanswered questions. I am sure the NPS has limited resources and it seems these resources would be better spent on almost any other policy.
712	To Whom it May concern, Please do not disturb the cats of San Juan. They serve a purpose of controlling vermin. Cats have been domesticated and serve humans for thousands of years. They are not harmful and from what I have read they are a tradition. Believe in life. Consider sterilization if they are that numerous. Please do not kill these wonderful creatures. Thanks for taking comments,
713	I am very distressed to hear of the plan to round up and reduce the cat population of San Juan. While I have only visited Puerto Rico once, I was completely charmed by the local cats.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Cats are vastly preferable to rats; I myself recently added two barn cats to my personal property to help with the rat problem. I can assure you from personal experience that the cats do a tremendous amount in this department.</p> <p>Please reconsider this plan, especially in light of opposition from the local residents.</p>
714	<p>My family wishes to beg you to please do not remove or harm the cats of Old Town San Juan. They add joy and character to the city that cannot be replaced. Who wants to visit a city overrun by rats and other nasty pests?! We will never visit San Juan if you heartlessly remove the cats.</p>
715	<p>As a resident of the only rat free jurisdiction in North America - Alberta - I cannot believe that you'd trade cats for rats. The cats of old SAN Juan have obviously developed a symbiotic relationship with the locale over the past 500 years. They are neither a pest nor a threat. They bring tremendous joy to a tourist like me while simultaneously performing a vital public service - rat control. Please choose the cats over the rats.</p>
716	<p>Save the cats of Old San Juan.</p> <p>To whom it may concern;</p> <p>I am just now learning of the proposal to "remove" the cats from this very charming city. I have visited Old San Juan and have fallen in love with its beauty, history and its cats. The cats add such a unique and lovely whimsy and feline friendliness to the overall charm. They are God's creatures and they are doing their part to keep the old city free of rodents. They work too.</p> <p>So in a word or two, please reconsider this proposal and let the cats be.</p> <p>It is possible to leave well enough alone as a perfect solution.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p>
717	<p>Dear Sir\madam:</p> <p>I am writing to you today to implore you not to remove the cats from Old San Juan. They are the history and part of the allure of this beautiful city. They have a rightful place there greater than or equal to that of human beings. The function they serve cannot be understated as well. Wouldn't we rather be overrun with cats than with rats!</p> <p>We, as human beings, need to get back to a point where we remember and honor the things in life that give it meaning. The cats of San Juan are just a small piece of that puzzle. It is our responsibility to protect them, not to destroy them.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read our comments and for your kind consideration in deciding to allow the beautiful cats to live in peace.</p>
718	<p>What on earth has happened to our government agencies!?! Why on earth would you choose to harm or remove the cats in anyway? San Juan is an historic site and you want to destroy it?</p> <p>Was someone allergic or something?</p> <p>They can vacation somewhere else.</p> <p>These are everyone's cats and in no way is this a viable thought! Everyone takes care of them and the cats take care of a rodent problem that in the past has been unprecedented!</p> <p>My goodness. Leave the cats alone and get some NPS folks that are fans and love them and will help protect them.</p> <p>Isn't that your job to protect the wildlife in the preserved areas? Not kill them!!</p> <p>Just OMYGOODNESS. stop it!</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
719	<p>I'm writing to voice my opinion and objection to "removing" or more likely extinguishing the cats in Old San Juan. I moved to and lived in Guaynabo, PR for two years, where I met my son's father and have special memories remembering the cats hanging out there. I am a cat lover and they are not a risk to humans, all the cats I encountered throughout Puerto Rico were very friendly, they aren't an animal that attacks humans. Rats however do spread disease, I believe I read that's why they were first introduced to the cobblestone streets there. It's not humane or right, your plan and it's not Gods will to kill a bunch of cats so I kindly request for you to reevaluate this, stop this evil plan that will backfire on you in more ways than one, let's not get rid of what is a delight for many who visit Old San Juan and potentially what could be limiting your rat/mouse population, animals known for spreading disease.</p>
720	<p>I think the plans to remove/kill the cats of Viejo San Juan is ill-advised and short-sighted. The cats are a beloved part of the charm of VSJ and there are organizations that care for them.</p> <p>Not only that, but they provide an indispensable service by controlling the rat and rodent population. This is, in fact, the reason they are there in the first place. With 500 year old buildings and infrastructure, VSJ will be overrun with vermin if the cats are not there. Rats and other rodents carry disease that is transmissible to humans. So, this is a public health issue in that the cats provide a public health service by keeping these vermin under control.</p> <p>Lastly, the plan only includes part of VSJ, which is nonsensical. Cats cannot read the signs telling them which areas to avoid. So, the remaining cats will continue to migrate into the area.</p> <p>This plan makes no sense and the residents and visitors of the area do NOT want it.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
721	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping the cats in Old San Juan and adding substantive comments to the record per your request.</p> <p>Known Facts: The cats are supported by local groups such as saveagato.com passing the costs of maintenance of the cats into charitable contributions. They are loved by locals and tourists as can be seen by the statue and merchandise that has spring up around the cats. Many locals expressed their support at a meeting the other night at Fort San Cristobal.</p> <p>You say you are taking substantive comments defined as "those that question the adequacy of the environmental analysis ... raise a point of analysis";</p> <p>My substantive question and point of analysis is how will you continue to keep the rodent populations down and how will you replace the lost tourist income that comes from people visiting Old San Juan to see the cats. If these dollar amounts have not yet been quantified by a study done by the federal government, such a study should be done prior to any action being taken to implement removal of the cats.</p> <p>Removal of the cats may lead to increased costs to decrease rapidly expanding rodent populations as well as decreasing local tourism revenue. It is the obligation of the government to prove no economic harm will take place to local residents through this action. That has not</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>been done yet.</p> <p>These comments pass the bar for substantive comments and I request they be added to the record.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
722	<p>I heard about the NPS wanting to remove cats from San Juan, Puerto Rico... I am shocked and saddened, I hope the Park Service will rethink this... the people of San Juan love the cats, the tourists love them as well... and they provide a valuable service, that has been going on for hundreds of years... to keep the rat population at a minimum. No city wants rats, though they themselves can be quite cute, they can host terrible disease... unlike a cat. If anything a spay/neuter program to keep the cat population in check is a good plan... as long as the cats are healthy and loved, leave them be. From the many photos I have seen they are just that.</p>
723	<p>Save the cats of Old San Juan! I can't imagine why you would want to kill these wonderful creatures. I say kill because I can't understand what else would happen to them when they are removed from the streets. The people love them. I loved seeing them when I visited. I don't understand the goal for this. Please stop this effort.</p>
724	<p>You are addressing a non-problem. I am an irregular but not infrequent visitor to San Juan, mostly as a tourist, and I am well acquainted with the cats. They are not feral (that I have seen), they harm none, their population is not out of control, and they are a welcome addition to the cultural landscape.</p> <p>Leave them be. We look forward to their presence when we will be there next, which should be in late 2023.</p>
725	<p>These comments are in opposition of a plan to remove cats from Old San Juan.</p> <p>The cats are a cultural treasure. For 500 years they have controlled the rat and vermin population and while doing so have charmed the inhabitants and visitors to Old San Juan. It would be evil to remove the cats. Beyond evil to euthanize them.</p> <p>Please share your data analysis regarding the elimination of the cat population. Will the rat/vermin population increase? Will said rats and vermin carry diseases or contribute to the decay of the city? What positive outcome are you trying to achieve by euthanizing the beloved cats?</p>
726	<p>It has been brought to my attention that you want to "remove" the cats of San Juan. As an animal lover and feral cat carer, I was appalled that the city would even consider this. There are numerous scenarios from around the world where this was attempted with disastrous results. Besides the fact that the cats are part of the cities character and special appeal.</p> <p>Please rather consider a TNR (trap neuter return) which will manage the numbers and while still having the cats to keep the rats population under control. There are numerous studies showing that the overwhelming causes of wildlife and bird death are habitat loss, urbanization, pollution, environmental degradation - all caused by humans, not feral cats. Also, animal control's traditional approach for feral cats - catching and killing/relocating - is proven not to work as when cats are removed from a location, new cats move in. This vacuum-effect is well-documented.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) benefits the cats and the community. Cats are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and eartipped (the universal symbol of a neutered and vaccinated cat), and then returned to their outdoor home. The colony's population stabilizes—no more kittens! Trap-Neuter-Return improves their lives and improves their relations with the community—the behaviors and stresses associated with mating stop. Trap-Neuter-Return is the humane, effective approach for feral cats.
727	Leave well enough alone. The cats have been a part of the rich history of Puerto Rico and provide a valuable purpose controlling the vermin population. For once, please step back from the brink, check your hubris at the door and recognise that your interference will once again negatively affect the balance of a functioning ecosystem. Regards,
728	The cats of Old San Juan are a stable predator population that keep the vermin(rats, mice) levels in check. The NPS plan is illogical and ill-founded with no way to balance the ecological scales when the predators are removed let alone keep new cats from moving into the cleared areas.
729	Hello, I have visited San Juan twice. I live near New York and Philadelphia. The rats in the latter two cities are gross and spread disease. The cats of San Juan keep the rats away and are pleasant as a part of the city culture. It makes San Juan unique. Please leave them be.
730	I want nothing more than to plan a trip, specifically to see the cats. Please not destroy something that is so beautiful to so many. Cats are also useful - they keep rodents at bay. I assure you we will never come visit and spend our dollars to see rodents. Spay and neuter - this is the way. Do not murder the cats.
731	I am most distressed to learn of the proposal to dispense with the services of an invaluable resource – the cat residents of your pretty town. I would ask that you reflect on the worth of our feline friends and the love and friendship they engender in both tourists and inhabitants. Non-lethal methods can surely address any problems that arise. Please consider the glittering example of Istanbul and the world-renowned civilising and life-enhancing effect of their feral cat colonies. Please accept my best wishes for the future of all of your residents – may all beings be happy.
732	Leave the cats alone to do their job of keeping the rodent population in San Juan in check. Instead Address the real serious problem we need to stop - the geo engineering of our sky. Go to geoengineerinwatch.org and see the real problem we are facing globally which very well contributed to the massive storm that purposefully devastated Perto RICO a few years ago and the storm that recently devastated Florida. .
733	The removal of the cats will result in a revival of rats. My understanding is that the local community is in support of keeping the cat population. Their concerns in the matter should drive the discussion.
734	Please leave the cats in San Juan. They are as much the history of VJS as the Spanish buildings. They are like bed by the community and tourists alike. Plz do not make this like the "kill the wolves" debacle of Yellowstone. 🙄
735	Leave the gatos alone you sick people. Did the people of San Juan demand this or s bunch of national park service employees.
736	Regarding the NPS proposal to "Remove / Reduce" the number of cats in San Juan. This idea is ill-conceived on multiple fronts.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>1) These cats serve a vital rodent control function. The centuries old stone structures, replete with the many culverts and other water control devices, are a wonderland for rats and other rodents. I can only assume NPS intends to introduce widespread poisons to solve the rodent problem you plan to create by removing the more effective, safer (and beloved) predator (CATS) that now do a good job of rodent control.</p> <p>2) As I alluded above, the cats are a well known, loved, and celebrated part of the park. Visitors love them, guide books include them, locals appreciate the valuable service they perform.</p> <p>3) I've yet to understand how NPS expects to prevent other cats now living outside the park from simply moving into the non-occupied habitat once the current cat residents are gone. "Signs" forbidding cats to enter will prove less than effective. (Even if printed in multiple languages.)</p> <p>4) I had hoped NPS had developed a sense of humility. Evidently not! These cats are a FEATURE of the park, NOT a bug. Removing them is unnecessary, counterproductive, and unwelcome to both locals and visitors alike. So don't do it!</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
737	I think removing the cats from NP in San Juan is a bad idea. They are the most effective predator to rats and other vermin, keeping populations in check. If it's not broke don't fix it.
738	Coming from Hawaii where a delicate ecological balance is sometimes challenging to achieve, I would say the least invasive action is usually the best. Humans are consistently arrogant in handling these issues and time and time again have proven that they don't know what they are doing. In many instances the wrong action is actually worse than doing nothing. I humbly submit that this be considered in this case. The cats have been there for long enough that removing them would most certainly disrupt the natural balance that has since been established. In addition, they are a beloved feature whose loss would be difficult to quantify. And lastly, euthanization of these cats would be unconscionable.
739	<p>I think that getting rid of the cats in Old San Juan , Puerto Rico is a very short sighted idea. (unless you're wanting the area to be over-run with rats).</p> <p>Also,at a time when the trust in the federal government is low, do you really want to annoy your citizens even more? I should think not.</p> <p>Sincerely yours,</p>
740	<p>Why would you want to get rid of cats and have rats in a city like this. Please articulate why the number of cats there is an issue. It would appear that this department is looking fir a problem and offering a solution. Do not remove the cats as it does not make sense from a health perspective and an ecomic perspective.</p> <p>Regards</p>
741	I have been to Old San Juan on a number of occasions and love seeing the beautiful and friendly cats that grace the streets roam free. Please respect the wishes of the people of San Juan and allow these precious symbols of the past to remain in their home.
742	<p>Save the cats of San Juan!</p> <p>Please do not implement your plan to remove and euthanize the cats of San Juan! They are part of the City's rich heritage and a main attraction for many of the people who travel there.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>My daughter recently visited your city, and the photos she most wanted to share with family back home were of the beloved cats. I fear you risk a backlash from tourists who will boycott San Juan if you allow this cruel plan to be implemented. Plus, it is just plain cruel and unnecessary. Please consider the better alternative of a spay or neuter program to reduce the population if you feel it has become a problem.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
743	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>I am writing to express concern about a proposed plan to remove cats from Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. As animal lovers, we enjoy seeing cats in Old San Juan. My children look forward to seeing them every time we go. They are a part of the community and are much loved. If removed, they will likely be euthanized, which is unacceptable. Furthermore, they help control the population of rodents and lizards. Please do not remove them.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
744	<p>Please do not get " rid " of the cats in San Juan! They eat the rats! People love them..it's the only reason I ever wished to visit PuertoRico! They are beloved. , sincerely</p>
745	<p>Dear NPS:</p> <p>RE: free-ranging cat management plan in OSJ</p> <p>I'm sure there are many areas where your time. money and resources can be more useful, for example: limbing up trees to reduce fire danger in all of the parks in the country. You have learned nothing from history. Clearing out cats in Old San Juan Puerto Rico shouldn't even be on your radar, as it's a non-problem. Get a grip, do something actually useful. The cats are a longstanding feature and quite literally a vital solution for Old San Juan. Cats or rats...it's an easy call. A "free-ranging cat management plan" are you kidding me? Let the gatos enjoy the san juan sunset, not be dragged off to die in darkness.</p>
746	<p>My family is from Puerto Rico originally and we visit often. One of the lovely sites we enjoy are the cats in the old city.</p> <p>The cats have been there for 500 years, as long as the buildings have existed, and are a charming part of the beautiful old city. Tourists love the cats. Please do not disturb them or remove them in any way.</p> <p>As I understand, the cats keep the entire area free from rats, the dangerous vermin that we see in every major city we have ever visited. Before disturbing the natural balance the cats are holding in old city, please explain to the residents in the area and the tourists to old city how you plan to keep the area free from disease-carrying rats, a plan I have not seen alongside the proposal to disturb the cats. My Puerto Rican grandmother taught me a valuable lesson that you should heed: leave well enough alone.</p> <p>I strongly oppose removing the cats from the old city. Please do not do that.</p>
747	<p>Please leave the cats alone. It is unconscionable that NPS would do anything to kill the most beloved and historical part of a vibrant city. Equally important, what do you think will happen to the rat population if the cats are gone? Which animal is an actual threat to human health?</p>
748	<p>I loved my visit and walking amongst the cats of Old San Juan. No reason to exterminate/relocate the cats. this is now an established ecosystem. who are you to intervene? is there disease, cat biting, or is this just another out of control bureaucratic silliness?? let's see some science on this issue! please just sit around and collect you pension asap.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
749	Please do not remove the cats from San Juan. They are a part of the culture of the city. The National Park Service is supposed to protect the history, culture and beauty of protected spaces. Removing the cats would violate that and allow vermin to take over. The cats have provided a service to San Juan for centuries and they deserve to be allowed to continue.
750	Please do not cull the cats of San Juan Puerto Rico. Doing so would take the soul right out of that place. People want to visit places that still have their inate character, but so much character has been lost, "smoothed out", around the world there aren't many compelling reasons to travel anymore, other than to boast that you've traveled. So, please, leave the cats of San Juan alone. They are not too populous. People love them. The cats MATTER. And they matter for another reason. Rat control. Seriously. Think about what you are proposing in wanting to do this cull. Creating problems where none currently exist leads to misery. Isn't there enough of that already?? PLEASE. Leave the cats of San Juan alone. Thank you.
751	I don't believe it is ethical to kill community cats!!!! Please find an alternative, like setting up some kind of community program to care for then, maybe partner with save a gato and set something up. There could be a community feeding and water post and each week someone could volunteer to fill it, there's already many locals who feed the cats, formalizing supports them and working with save a gato could get some cats off the street or neutered.
752	I had a fabulous trip to Puerta Rico. I have wonderful memories of beautiful Old San Juan and these memories include the Cats of Old San Juan. I have concerns about the NPS proposal to remove/reduce these cats. My biggest concern is that a large and rapid reduction in cats would result in an increase in rats. It doesn't take long for rats to overwhelm an area. There are already organizations in place that work valiantly to trap, neuter and release these cats. The NPS knows this already because they partner with one of these organizations, Save A Gato. Since starting TNR in 2004, Save A Gato has reduced the cat population by 50%. Please consider all of the possible ramifications that a large reduction/removal of these cats would create.
753	I'm writing to support the cats of old San Juan, and to protest any plans to harm them including euthanasia. The island's cats have been there for a long time and serve a valuable purpose of keeping rodents from overwhelming the towns. Tourists like myself love that the cats live free there, and we are absolutely horrified to think that could change. The local people support and love the cats, and their voices need to be heard and respected. Please do the right thing and leave the cats alone, or use the funds allocated to this program to create - or support existing - spay & neuter programs that actually benefit both the animals, residents and tourists alike. Thank you.
754	Why do our Parks Departments - National, state, and city- make bad decisions? Did a cat give you the brush off and you are holding a grudge? The cats are loved. Rats - animal and human - not so much.
755	The cats of San Juan have been part of the enchanting scenery for nearly 500 years. They harm no one except rats and I remember them fondly as a tourist. When you turn a corner and see a cat that wants a pet, this is a gift. Do not remove these animals...they are as precious as the cats that are protected not so far away at the NPS site in Key West at Ernest Hemingway's house.
756	Remove the cats, and get rats. That's going to please the residents and tourists immensely, right? And they'll know exactly who to blame. If it's not broken, don't fix it.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Please desist. Thank you.</p>
757	<p>This isn't going to work unless your plan is to kill or remove every cat on the island. If that was your plan it would fail because life, uh, finds a way. Remember when you (the NPS) decided to kill all the wolves in Yellowstone? Maybe you should think a little longer before you act. Plus there was no internet then. Your hubris and failure is going to be very public this time.</p>
758	<p>I read that NPS is removing ferrel cats from Viejo San Juan to "enhance the experience". Turns out this is unwise. Like, lets remove all the wolves from Yellowstone. These cats were introduced to control the rat population. Their presence is beneficial. They are LIKED and celebrated by the residents and the tourists. Removing them is not something you have studied in any scientific way. Please dont do this</p>
759	<p>The cat people need to open their eyes about cats and see everything about cats, and not just what they want to believe cats make great pets but beyond being a pet, what else do they do? The cats here not mostly kept indoors 24/7, so their behavior impacts what is outside.</p> <p>The cat people here I met are fanatics, and were very unpleasant people. I would not want to know any of them personally. Many Israelis are naïve and support cats and the feeding of cats because they don't know very much about the subject and it seems like a compassionate thing to do, so they are naïve. But because I have a garden, I'm not naïve, I see the destruction.</p> <p>cats have fleas and diseases and teeth and there are far too many of them.</p> <p>neutering is obviously doing nothing and never has in any country it's been attempted. in addition, some of the orthodox cat lovers seem to believe that God's commandment to be fruitful and multiply applies to cats. It doesn't, it applies to people.</p> <p>That leaves us with two options, and they are both provably effective: starvation and eradication. Reality, not fantasy.</p> <p>The cats are innocent victims, they are not responsible for what the humans do, but they have to live with the consequences that so much Israeli excess street food creates.</p> <p>It used to be there were 1.7 billion people in the world (~1920?) and now there are over 8 billion people in the world. The reason for that is that food production increased because of fertilizer, the efficiency of farms, etc so there was a lot more food. more food —&gt; more people more food —&gt; more cats</p> <p>https://www.science.org/content/article/it-s-official-cats-are-killers</p> <p>https://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/30/science/that-cuddly-kitty-of-yours-is-a-killer.html</p>
760	<p>Hello-I am a frequent visitor of state and national parks. It is important that every park have a personality, and the cats provide that history and personality that make this area unique. A humane spay/neuter campaign would be a much better choice than trying to remove the cats currently living there. It also seems that the citizens of the area do not want this change.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Please reconsider the current plan. Thank you-</p>
761	<p>Read an article on the proposed NPS action against the cats of old San Juan. My wife and I enjoyed the cat's company as we visited several years ago. They were brought to control rats and vermin and logically should remain. Additionally, I believe it would Prove extraordinarily difficult for the NPS to take significant action due to the wonderfully age of the buildings and subsurface nooks and crannies. Leave them alone please. Thanks for reading this input.</p>
762	<p>The cat population of Old San Juan is a beloved and cherished aspect of this historic city. The cats do a fine job keeping the rodent population in check and are loved by residents and visitors alike.</p> <p>The cats are NOT a nuisance that needs to be dealt with by the National Park Service or any other organization.</p> <p>The felines of Old San Juan need to be LEFT ALONE!</p> <p>They don't need to be relocated or euthanized.</p> <p>Spend your time and funds elsewhere and LEAVE THE CATS ALONE!!!</p>
763	<p>Leave the cats of San Juan alone!!!!</p>
764	<p>Omaha police shot and killed a mountain lion in the city. Nobody forgives them. We now have a license plate memorial to the mountain lion. Couldn't these resources do greater work if reallocated to forest management?</p>
765	<p>Cats were introduced to Puerto Rico to battle plagues of rats and other vermin. Many are direct descendants from their Spanish lineage. Now they're as much a part of Old San Juan as the colorful buildings and city walls.</p> <p>Keeping the cats of Old San Juan is not only aesthetic and ethical, it's functional in a classic "Chesterton's Fence" sense of "never tear down a fence until you know why it was put up in the first place."</p> <p>In a place like Old San Juan with 500 year-old buildings, and the drains and culverts that come with them, you have a simple choice:</p> <p>Do you want cats or do you want rats?</p> <p>Cats, please.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
766	<p>The cats of San Juan should be left unmolested and should not be interfered with. The cats of San Juan add enjoyment to the experience of the city, they keep the city healthy, and the plan to keep them out of one section of the city will never work without enormous and ultimately futile effort.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>1. They are an enjoyable aesthetic and historical part of the city that improves the city for tourists and residents alike. To eliminate them would be to decrease the city's attractive nature and the city would see a reduction in tourist business. This would hurt the economy and diminish the standard of living for the residents of the city.</p> <p>2. The cats of San Juan provide an important pest control function. A city such as San Juan would be overrun with rats without cats to control their number. A city overrun with rats is a city that exposes its residents to pestilence and disease, and this would damage the city's reputation and physically harm its residents.</p> <p>3. The plan to eliminate cats from part of the city is untenable. A section of the city with no cats, causes a territorial vacuum to be formed that enticed neighboring cats to move into the unoccupied zone. This means that the extermination effort will be a never-ending one, as more cats are removed to keep the zone clear of cats, more will move into it. Population pressures cause cat territory to shift in a liquid manner, no one zone can be kept free of cats without strenuous and continuous extermination efforts.</p>
767	<p>Please do not implement your plans for the San Juan cats. This is a non problem and your limited resources would be better spent elsewhere. The people closest geographically do not want this and that should weigh most heavily. This will be looked back on as a mistake if you proceed, and you will not be thought of favorably.</p>
768	<p>I am vehemently opposed to 'removing' the San Juan cats. There is NO reason for this despicable plan to 'eliminate' them. They have been there since the time of the Spanish settlers.</p> <p>&quot;The cats live in San Juan The people of San Juan like it The tourists like it&quot;</p> <p>Furthermore, have you never heard of TNR which is live Trapping (catching), Neutering the cats and Releasing them back? This will stop the breeding and is the ONLY humane solution to any 'overpopulation problem' if one even exists. This way the people can continue to enjoy the cats as they have over the centuries and the cats can continue to control the rodent problem....which would explode if the cats were removed. Your solution on the other hand is irrational and will cause more problems than it solves. Google search the article from Alley Cat Allies entitled &quot;Why Trap-Neuter-Return Feral Cats? The Case for TNR&quot; https://www.alleycat.org/resources/why-trap-neuter-return-feral-cats-the-case-for-tnr/</p> <p>Respectfully</p>
769	<p>The cats of San Juan should be allowed to live as they have for centuries. They are integral to San Juan's heritage. They are loved by multitudes. And they provide an essential service for the city.</p> <p>LAY OFF THE CATS!!!</p>
770	<p>Please leave the beloved cats of San Juan to live in peace.</p> <p>Humans brought the cats there to &quot;use&quot; for their intended purposes. God created the cats for His own purposes. Humans now consider &quot;removing&quot; the cats, likely to cause their death. God gave them life.</p> <p>A great many people love and appreciate the cats' presence there. They not only add beauty,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>serenity, and happiness to the place, they control the rodent population.</p> <p>A humane trap-spay/neuter-release program could easily help with overpopulation of the cats. Let them stay, let them live and enjoy their God-given lives, and continue to bring pleasure to many people as well.</p>
771	<p>I just read about your plan to "dispose" of the cats of old San Juan. It sounds like a very bad idea to replace cats with rats in view of the age of the buildings and drains in the area. Please rethink and consider the views of local residents and tourists to the area. Thank you.</p>
772	<p>Leave the cats alone!</p> <p>Cats are a historic tradition in San Juan and are appreciated by residents and also by tourists as they are part of an attraction to the area. As such they boost local trade. With the 500 year old buildings, drains and culverts of San Juan, without cats then rats would obviously be drawn back to the area - a far worse a nuisance than cats!</p> <p>Surely a program of selective neutering will be a far more effective method of restricting the cat population while maintaining the many benefits that cats can continue to bring to the area.</p>
773	<p>The cats of Old San Juan serve a vital purpose for the public in keeping rats away and are a huge part of the culture and tourism of the city. "Managing" their population is completely unnecessary and destructive to the people who live and visit the area. DO NOT DO THIS!</p>
774	<p>Please save the cats..... I love P.R and have family in Caguas.</p>
775	<p>Please leave the cats in old San Juan Puerto Rico alone. They do a wonderful job of rat management. Also they are an enjoyable historic aspect to the city. Thank you.</p>
776	<p>I would urge you to consider local public opinion and long term consequences. Removing predatory animals is often well intentioned but shortsighted for any ecosystem. Cute cats that the public loves and tourists enjoy is much better than rats running rampant. I would focus your attention, energy and budget on other more long term sustainable projects that build the local ecosystem. Examples may include planting trees, restoring shorelines, or buying land to create more natural preserves. Removing the cats is a bad idea. Thank you.</p>
777	<p>The cats of San Juan were an impressive part of my visit to Puerto Rico. It adds to the experience of colonial San Juan. Also if you remove them the old part of the city will be overrun with rats. Please do not kill the San Juan cats.</p>
778	<p>Dear concerned parties,</p> <p>This sounds like a situation of "if it isn't broke, why fix it?" The cats have been a long standing feature of San Juan. They were brought to the island for a purpose, and are a feature of it. If the cat population is overrunning the island, maybe a more nuanced and humane solution can be found to curtail the cat population that doesn't involve open season destruction of the population.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration,</p>
779	<p>"You can judge a society by the way it treats its animals." —Mahatma Gandhi</p> <p>Unless you want your agency to join the most reviled entities in the world, you will immediately drop the proposal to "remove" the beloved felines who grace San Juan. Not only would the absence of these cherished cats trigger an explosion of the rat</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	population and subsequently contagious diseases, but you would harm the economy of San Juan, whose affectionate feline citizens serve as a major tourist draw for cat-lovers around the globe.
780	I urge you to reconsider this cat culling plan. An unbiased third-party assessment of the impact on rats and other species the cats are critical in controlling the populations of, and the same for a full environmental impact assessment of your proposal, should be done, and the results open to public comment. The cats are also a tourist attraction and a vital cultural resource.
781	<p>Nothing in the NPS assessment indicates why these cats are only now a threat or nuisance. The single issue stated was the presence of feces / urine. Given that the cats have been in this area of Puerto Rico for centuries and presumably deposited their waste for just as long, NPS has made no clear argument for the sudden demand for the animals' elimination. Also, not addressed in the "free-ranging cat management plan" is the obvious need for the cats. Consider why the Spaniards first introduced them to the region--to combat the omnipresent vermin infestation. How precisely does the NPS propose to combat the inevitable resulting vermin infestation as thoroughly as the felines do? Have you considered the inevitable impact on the environment without the predation of the cats, and how that would truly affect your attempts to improve the "visitor experience"? If your goal is to improve that experience, perhaps you should recognize that the cats are an asset in that they have long been a delightful presence that visitors have enjoyed for decades and are truly an integral part of the Old San Juan ambiance.</p> <p>Please consider that the implementation of your plan to remove the cats will certainly have a much more deleterious effect that will more than surpass any "problem" that you hope to "solve";</p>
782	Please let the cats of Old San Juan be.
783	The proposal to eliminate the cats of Old San Juan is as short-sighted as it is cruel. As frequent visitors to Puerto Rico, my wife and I always look forward to seeing these animals as we tour the colonial city; like their counterparts in other parts of Latin America (Mexico City, Lima, Cartagena de Indias), they add enormously to the charm of the forts and cobbled streets, while helping to ensure the cleanliness of the neighborhoods. They also serve as a cost-free, sanitary means of controlling the rodent population. We would like to voice our vigorous opposition to this policy: don't let short-sighted bureaucratic policy interfere with a valuable local tradition, one prized by many LOCAL boricuas!
784	<p>Sirs/Ma'ams,</p> <p>Speaking as a dog lover, please leave the cats alone. They have been there for 500+ years and are a part of the indigenous culture. They provide valuable services in that they keep the rats/vermin under control, are an asset for the tourism industry, and the locals love them. Plus, they are really cool!</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
785	The NPS plan to disrupt 500 years of cats living in Old San Juan is unnecessary and ill-advised. Cats were brought in 500 years ago by the Spanish to control rats and other vermin. The cats still do that job and they do it well. This is a functioning ecosystem that needs no changes. The cats of Old San Juan are stewarded (as much as any cat can be stewarded) by a private organization that sees to their welfare. Why is NPS getting involved? Of all the ways to spend the supposedly chronically underfunded NPS funds, you do this, a "solution" in search of a problem?

Corr ID	Correspondence
	With the funds and staff time you have spent on this non-problem, how much deferred maintenance on NPS public lands in Puerto Rico could you do instead?
786	This plan to remove the cats of San Juan is ill conceived and inappropriate. The cats serve a valuable function of rodent control, and do so at a very low price point (they work for free). The cats are also a beloved feature of the island and the area, long time residents (going back generations) that enrich the long history of the fort and surrounding area. The presence of the cats is a "feature" not a "bug." The NPS can find a way to coexist with the cats in a mutually beneficial relationship rather than remove them.
787	Please leave the cats alone. They are part of the charm and landscape of San Juan. I also feel the cats keep the horrible disease infested rats away...something which is clearly a problem in places like NYC and Washington DC.
788	<p>Leave the cats alone. They are part of the culture and heritage of PR. They keep the rats under control. They delight the locals and tourists alike.</p> <p>Why now? Why at all? Why ever?</p> <p>Haven't you anything better to do?</p> <p>Leave the cats alone.</p>
789	<p>When I had visited Viejo San Juan I was delighted by the adorable cats which inhabited the historic grounds.</p> <p>Not only is it cruel to consider removing and culling these beautiful cats but it is also a poor decision for both sanitation (rats) and tourism.</p> <p>I have fond memories of these gorgeous cats which had significantly elevated my experience in San Juan.</p> <p>Moreover, there exist wonderful charities whose volunteers feed, care for and sterilize these lovely felines.</p> <p>Please reconsider your unethical, unsanitary and malevolent plan to cull the kitties of San Juan.</p>
790	The cats of Old San Juan manage the rodents of Old San Juan. Do not remove the cats. I don't want to go on tour with rodents.
791	<p>Hi,</p> <p>Seems like you're rushing in to solve a problem that doesn't exist. In fact, the community prefers these cats over rats. Puerto Rico could use some help after being pummeled by hurricanes; perhaps residents have some suggestions if you're looking to be of service. The cats, however, are good where they are. The books, calendars and statue exist because people like the cats. I don't mean to be rude, but learn how to read a room!</p>
792	Please do not eradicate the cats. They 1) have lineage, history, and tradition in Viejo San Juan, and; 2) deter rodentia and other pests that absent their natural predators become a problem equal to, or greater than, the cats. This has been done before, by other agencies in other locations, and it does not end well. Ever.
793	As someone who has visited this specific area many many times in the past decade and as someone who has fallen in love with the area as a tourist as has returned with my family whenever possible I cannot urge you enough NOT TO ALLOW THIS PLAN TO TAKE

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>PLACE.</p> <p>First, these cats are a feature not a nuisance. I would say that almost 100% of the other visitors I have seen interacting with these cats are happy to do so and find the experience a positive one. My family has hundreds of photographs of and with these cats. we are not "cat people" we have one small cat which lives with us in our apartment in NYC. But seeing these amazing little animals interact with their environments is an enjoyable experience. we have collections of photos from anywhere we go. Rome, Athens and the Greek islands are areas very similar and are also other areas where tourists enjoy seeing and interacting with the local cats.</p> <p>Second- we live in NYC. we have no local cat population because the weather is too harsh for them to survive on their own through the winter. so you know what we end up with A LOT OF RATS!!!! tons and tons of filthy rats which you see everywhere all the time. i have never seen a similar problem anywhere there is an obvious local cat population. You will trade a very minor problem which most people are either ambivalent to or actually enjoy for a far worse one which will actually stop people from coming to the area and cost the local economy jobs and money.</p> <p>Third, it appears to me to be a bad plan. Not only will it allow the rat and vermin problem to increase, the cats from the surrounding area will simply re-populate vacuum created after you have murdered the current population. Are you planning on fencing the entire area off? By what measure will you stop this happening? You will cause a lot of pain and suffering for no gain because of this poorly thought-out plan.</p> <p>ON BEHALF OF MY FAMILY AND IN PARTICULAR MY CHILDREN (who by the way are in the process of planning out next visit to your wonderful island) PLEASE STOP THIS HORRIBLE, IL CONCIEVED PLAN.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
794	<p>Hello.</p> <p>I am against any removing of cats from San Juan.</p> <p>Cat is a very important animal to humanity. If there were no cats our civilization would not exist! As dogs, cats are our loyal companions and we should respect them!</p> <p>I am sure it will be MUCH better just to arrange a safe life for these cats! Have a spaying program and there will not be uncontrolled populations. And have a community program for feeding the cats and making them a better and bigger tourist attraction.</p> <p>The world is watching how will you handle this and it is important for it to be done in a humane way which is good for everybody, cats included.</p> <p>Thank You.</p> <p>Have a nice day</p>
795	<p>The proposal to cull the cats of San Juan is a bad idea. Please stop it from becoming a reality.</p>
796	<p>The cats of San Juan are the primary reason we come to Puerto Rico and bring our tourist dollars to spend there. They are delightful, gorgeous and provide an invaluable contribution to the community.</p> <p>I can't help but wonder, Is this misguided and cruel proposal to "manage" the cat population some kind of make work project for the NPS?</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Why on earth would you "fix" something that isn't broken? Why would you create a rodent infestation by killing the cats???
797	Please don't kill the cats of San Juan. They are part of your Spanish heritage, they perform a valuable function in controlling the rodent population, they are a big tourist attraction. So they are good for local trade, the tourist industry and the people. If the cat numbers are out of control, then I suggest kind and careful selective neutering. But killing them will blacken your reputation and present a very negative appearance to the world.
798	<p>As a travel professional, I am very concerned about the proposed removal of the Colonial Cats of Old San Juan. They are a beloved symbol of that area, and of Puerto Rico in general. Tourists visit specifically to see and photograph them, and the tapestry of the city will be the poorer for their absence. The previous does not even take into account the valuable pest control service that they provide. I can guarantee you that no one will be thrilled with the explosion in rodent population numbers that would be a secondary result of the removal of the cats. Finally, the publicity of the removal would tarnish how people view Puerto Rico. Wholesale reaping and extermination of what many consider to be "the public's pets" would be receive extensive negative press coverage and cause outrage among animal lovers worldwide. Nobody believes that these animals would be removed by any other means.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.</p>
799	<p>My wife's maternal family is Puerto Rican, and I've had the fortune of visiting them and the island twice, and staying in Viejo San Juan. The cats were beloved by everyone, locals and tourists alike, which brings me to wonder why this action was initiated in the first place.</p> <p>A credible issue in the newsletter is urine and feces near the feeding stations, but that is solved with much more simple and less costly solutions than eliminating the cats (e.g., moving, reducing, and/or cleaning around the feeding stations).</p> <p>For the concern of spreading diseases, what is the approximate number of people affected per year? E.g., how many annual cases of toxoplasmosis, rabies, typhus, etc... are attributed to the cats?</p> <p>The impact on avian wildlife is, of course, detrimental, but with a city as old as Viejo San Juan, the cats almost certainly prohibit substantial rodent issues. What is the plan to deal with rodent populations when the cats are removed?</p> <p>Unless the disease numbers are staggering, this seems like a solution in search of a problem; a "kill the wolves of Yellowstone" type of short sightedness, and one that incenses the locals for mainly theoretical justifications.</p>
800	Please do not remove or kill the cats of San Juan! San Juan and Puerto Rico are on my bucket list as places to visit and one of the big draws are the cats that have been in San Juan since the Spanish came. I am so looking forward to seeing the cats and exploring the city they in part have made famous. The cats are part of the culture of this beautiful place, AND they are living beings and loved. Even thinking of killing them is evil in the extreme. Stop and think about what you do because I am watching and so are millions and we will continue to speak for the cats of San Juan who cannot speak for themselves. Thank you!
801	Instead of removing the cats better join and help finance the spay and neuter programm. Removing the cats would be a real shame as they are a tourist attraction on their own.

Corr ID	Correspondence
802	<p>ASESINAR A LOS INDEFENSOS E INOCENTES ANIMALES Y HACERLES PAGAR CON SUS VIDAS LAS FALLAS HUMANAS, LA IRRESPONSABILIDAD DE LA GENTE, LA INSENSIBILIDAD DEL GOBIERNO, ES MAS QUE UN PECADO....UN DELITO. SEGURO DETRAS DE ESTA INFAME GESTION HAY MUCHOS ANTIABORTISTAS. PURA HIPOCRESIA.</p> <p>TOMEN EL EJEMPLO DE TURQUIA. DEJEN EL SALVAJISMO Y BUSQUES SOLUCIONES Y SALIDAS, QUE LAS HAY. NO SON FACILES? La vida humana tampoco lo es, pero se defiende.</p>
803	<p>I read about your plan to remove cats from Old San Juan on El Gato Malo's substack. Given that people know you will euthanize them because there really is no way to relocate all those cats, you are inviting a firestorm at a time when people are already not all that fond of government and lack faith in it. Add in the fact that you will have a rat problem on your hands if you remove too many cats (which is likely to happen because I have never heard of a government agency that didn't go overboard--see all of the pandemic as an example), the anger will be more than I'd think you'd want to face.</p> <p>So here is my suggestion: why not start a drive to neuter a large portion of the cat population? Cats do not live that long, particularly when they live outside. You can easily neuter a substantial number of them and the population will come back under control.</p> <p>As for the idea that the cats are killing wildlife, the cats have been there for hundreds of years. Any wildlife left has adapted to their presence. At this point, the *cats* themselves *are* the wildlife, so that excuse will not fly with people.</p>
804	<p>I just heard of your proposal to remove the beloved cats of San Juan. I haven't seen you present any evidence that destroying this cultural feature with historic roots in the city is necessary or better than allowing the SaveAGato organization to continue their fine work. They care for -- and this includes neutering -- these cats. You have presented no evidence that a more radical solution would be of any benefit, and this is unacceptable since broad-scale manipulations of the environment, such as what you propose, often have disastrous and unintended consequences. You've presented insufficient evidence of need and especially insufficient evidence that your proposed interference would improve rather than disrupt the local ecosystem.</p>
805	<p>This idea is absurd. I am currently living in a rodent infestation since all our cats died here. You do not want that.</p> <p>And outside the practical points, it also seems that everyone likes the cats and wants to keep them, including tourists. This is the first time I've heard of this place and I already want to visit because of the cats. You aren't improving anything for anyone by removing these animals.</p> <p>It sounds like you are just trying to override overwhelming public opinion just because you want to, and that never ends well.</p> <p>Dont keep trying to fix what isn't broken.</p>
806	<p>This comment is for the Old San Juan Puerto Rico cats dilemma. I believe much more thought needs to go into this so called plan. Puerto Rico is an island and though you might not want millions of cats(I have not found a rough estimate of how many cats we may be talking about) do you want billions of rats and other pests that cats can help control. Rats and</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>mice breed far faster and in larger numbers than cats. Cats can be easier to control by simply adding a spay/neuter and RELEASE program. Yes it costs money to employ the people to trap them and perform the necessary spay/neuter. But you do not have to capture ALL of them just some of them....certain days set a number goal to catch and spay/neuter/release. Does not have to be an every day thing, maybe 2-3 days a week?</p> <p>The cats are a part of the Puerto Rican tourist vacation experience. I would think most tourists AND the local population would prefer a cat over a rat or mice. The people of Puerto Rico should be ASKED and LISTENED to since they share the island with the cats.</p> <p>Do not just start exterminating cats....it may very well and I think it definitely WILL present a far bigger environmental problem than what you &quot;think&quot; you now have.</p> <p>You MUST consider the long range implications. To do that you will have to be studying the entire picture...pros and cons. Not just cats, rats, mice, but all species of animals native or invasive...and the effect on the human population, be it locals and tourists as well.</p> <p>My take ...save the cats, use spay/neuter/release. You might find the people will back this and if money is the issue put it out to us in the United States for support. We as individuals here in the United States support many causes. Even on a fixed income I would support this. Keep Puerto Rico.....Puerto Rico.</p>
807	<p>Please do not &quot;remove&quot; the cats in Old San Juan, PR. They are a distinct and beloved part of the area's charm, bringing delight to locals and tourists alike. They help with rodent control naturally while adding character and a playful, loving timbre to the town. Do the right thing and listen to the concerned citizens speaking up for these wonderful felines. Please stand on the right side of history! I loved visiting San Juan and look forward to returning and seeing this special destination known for its architecture, history and extremely photogenic and charming cats. Thank you for doing the right thing for these special creatures! Do not remove them.</p>
808	<p>What are you people thinking? The cats are not causing any problems, people enjoy them and they're keeping the rodent population down. The cats are fine, leave them alone.</p>
809	<p>Please leave the feral cats of Old San Juan alone. They are part of the charm of the city for tourists. I enjoyed their presence when I visited years ago and I wasn't even a cat lover then. Also, think of the free rodent control service they provide the city.</p> <p>Please save the cats.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
810	<p>These cats are a part of a 500-yr-old tradition that is not broken. Spay & neuter, yes, but do not remove & kill! The people who actually live there love these cats, and it is simply not right for an outside agency to come into their world and decide that things need to change. It is the right of the people to decide this for themselves. Please do not do this!</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
811	<p>Dear Sir, Madam or Other;</p> <p>Having read about your plan for the local population of semi-feral cats, I must say I'm appalled about the short-sightedness of it all.</p> <p>Not only do you risk having the local populations of rats, mice and similar explode, you also only propose to trap and handle cats in a limited area, something which will ensure overall failure and that any resources spent are lost as a sunk cost.</p> <p>A much better way of limiting the number of cats would be to show strong support to groups enacting trap, spay/neuter and release programs, as well as adoption programs. For a much lower cost both humanitarian, financial and emotional/public relationswise.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
812	No!
813	Horrified to see the plans for elimination of cats in Puerto Rico. Do you actually try to come up with new ways to make three letter government agencies even more detested? The cats are a *feature*, not a bug!
814	No se metan con los gatitos! Déjenlos vivir!
815	<p>I do not support removing or killing of cats from Old San Juan.</p> <p>I have been there as a tourist and did not have a problem with them. In fact, it's one of the cool things I remember -- like the wild chickens that roam the streets of Kauai, Hawaii. It's a unique local thing.</p> <p>The cats are keeping the mice and rats away. Even if they also kill birds, keeping the rodent population down in a natural prey/predator way is much better than setting out rat poison or traps, which could also hurt wildlife.</p> <p>NPS - just leave well enough alone and go find a "real" problem to solve. Leave the cats alone.</p> <p>Thanks,</p>
816	Please keep the cats of old San Juan. These cats were originally brought in to keep rodents at bay, and this continues to be important. They are a huge tourist draw and a part of the city. They should not be removed, and euthanizing them would be morally wrong. Please do not remove the cats.
817	<p>Los gatos de Viejo San Juan forman parte del encanto de la ciudad y gran parte de la colonia está ya esterilizada. Cuál es la necesidad de removerlos??? Qué tienen que ver ustedes como entidad federal del manejo de los PARQUES en el manejo de los gatos? Yo antes trabajaba para una entidad federal y donde nos estacionábamos había una colonia de gatos. Era en Santurce y sabemos que muchas áreas abundan felinos callejeros lamentablemente. Me puse a hacer TNR (trap, neuter and return), lo mismo que hace Save A Gato con los gatitos de VSJ, puesto que NADIE más lo iba a hacer. Mi propio lugar de empleo amenazó también a quien se pusiera a alimentar gatos, etc. algo que encuentro un "scare tactic" y golpe bajo y de mal gusto de parte de una entidad del gobierno federal. Uno pensaría que como agencias federales fueran más open minded y menos crueles y, de hecho, como agencia federal deberían aprovechar y hacer de esto una oportunidad para UNIRSE con organizaciones sin fines de lucro o con personas que lo hacen EN SU TIEMPO LIBRE para APORTAR ya sea monetariamente (You clearly have the money for it) o con recursos para ayudar a esterilizar a los gatos. Debería ser una buena oportunidad de hacer una especie de task force y hacer de ustedes un BUEN EJEMPLO. Y quizás otras organizaciones o personas se unan. PONGAN EL EJEMPLO y en vez de ponerse a "remover" whatever that means a animalitos que ya llevan años ahí, únense a Save a Gato y hagan el trabajo y aprendan a ser sensibles. Honestamente si eso no les cambia de parecer, ni les hace hacer un change of heart, dan bochorno. Esto da rabia. Many tourists and people from the US go to VSJ to see the cats. En países como Turquía adorna a los gatos, hacen TNR y les dejan entrar a todos lados porque la gente les respeta. DÉJENLES EN PAZ. Gasten sus recursos en un task force con Save A Gato mejor y ayúdenles.</p>
818	I have only just heard of this proposal to "manage" things with the local cat population. Given past historical attempts by humans to "manage" things (forests, populations etc.) that ended in drastic failures because the complete chain of consequences

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>were never properly thought or mapped out - I ask you to reconsider. Particularly as this will permanently affect the welfare and well being of the animals themselves.</p> <p>If nothing else, the past 2.5 years have provided an abundantly illustrated object lesson in the pitfalls of unquestioning reliance on "expert authority" and "modelling" in providing solutions.</p> <p>Is this situation truly a provable and real problem or is this simply a planning initiative in search of a problem to solve?</p> <p>Kindest regards,</p>
819	<p>The voice of the people is the voice of God. -Roman proverb</p> <p>Leave the cats alone. They keep the rats at bay and are a beloved tradition to Old San Juan. Stop tearing down Tradition.</p>
820	<p>Please leave the cats of Old San Juan Puerto Rico alone. Removing them will not only fail to "improve the experience" for tourists and residents alike, but it will actively degrade the experience. The cats are a feature of the VSJ experience, not a bug. Do not turn this into another "remove the wolves from Yellowstone" shameful experience. Leave them be.</p>
821	<p>Saludos. VSJ ha sido nuestro hogar desde el 1975. Desde entonces recuerdo la existencia de una colonia de gatos que vivían en la La Puerta de San Juan. La misma era atendida por dos vecinas entre otras personas que echaban la mano.</p> <p>El rol de los gatos en la reducción de la población de roedores en VSJ es histórica, y sus resultados se ha reflejado en una disminución importante en comparación con los años '50, cuando las ratas, de acuerdo a vecinos de la época, se veían caminando por el tendido eléctrico. No olviden que VSJ es una ciudad con una infraestructura de túneles húmedos y oscuros, y sistemas por donde discurren mezcladas las aguas sanitarias y pluviales, proveyendo las condiciones idóneas para la multiplicación de roedores. Los gatos estuvieron presentes mucho antes del Paseo del Morro, y lo único que pasó fue que se siguieron extendiendo según los seres humanos les abrimos el camino con la construcción del paseo.</p> <p>La atención a la colonia de gatos se amplió en los años 2004-2005 con el establecimiento de Save-A-Gato, una organización sin fines de lucro que trabaja con voluntarios y donaciones. SAG ha manejado la población gatuna mediante un programa de captura-esterilización-devolución a su habitat (TNR, en inglés) de aquellos gatos que no son ubicados en adopción. Se ocupan también de velar por su alimentación y salud. Hacen de tripas corazones y necesitan que tanto National Park Service (NPS), como Turismo y Municipio de San Juan hagan su parte.</p> <p>Si la población de gatos en VSJ no se ha reducido a niveles más saludables no se debe ni a la colonia de gatos, ni a la falta de esfuerzos de SAG. Se debe a la alta incidencia de abandono de gatos, sin esterilizar, que se da en nuestra ciudad. De ello damos fé en la Caleta de San Juan donde periódicamente aparecen camadas nuevas de gatos. Esto es producto de la falta de una buena campaña educativa, de lo que National Park Service, si interesa ayudar a reducir la población de gatos, se debe ocupar.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>National Park Service puede también apoyar económicamente para mejorar la limpieza de un par de áreas en el paseo. Dicho sea de paso, en los últimos tiempos estas áreas se han tornando un poco más difíciles de mantener limpias debido a que se ha liberalizado el paso de gente con sus PERROS por el paseo, gente que no siempre recoge. Los perros invaden y orinan/defecan en el habitat de los gatos, y en respuesta los gatos se ven en la necesidad de ampliar el espacio que "marcan", acercándose al área por donde caminan a los humanos y sus perros, y los demás visitantes. En más de una ocasión me comuniqué con el director de la oficina en Turismo encargado de supervisar el mantenimiento de las áreas verdes en el paseo y la limpieza del camino para procurar su colaboración; no obstante, nunca se vieron resultados. Este es un asunto que requiere de una efectiva coordinación interagencial entre NPS y Turismo.</p> <p>La alimentación de gatos fuera del área de los comederos en el paseo tampoco es culpa de los gatos ni responsabilidad de SAG. En un sinnúmero de ocasiones me he acercado a visitantes extranjeros y locales para orientarlos y pedirles que NO alimenten los gatos, y explicarles el plan de manejo que existe. Muchos reaccionan sorprendidos porque desconocen del programa y toda vez que los comederos no están a la vista (excepto cuando periódicamente se les da una poda radical a las uvas playeras) se sienten convocados a "ayudar". Se necesita rotulación efectiva para orientar y prohibir la alimentación y abandono de gatos en el paseo, esfuerzo que debe ser asumido por National Park Service en colaboración con Turismo y Municipio de San Juan. Dicho sea de paso, los letreros también deben hacer explícito cómo la gente que quiere ayudar puede canalizar sus donaciones a SAG, ya que este grupo comunitario necesita un mecanismo para levantar fondos que le permita continuar con su programa de TNR. (Como esta plataforma no me da la opción de subir un modelo de rotulación, se lo enviaré a Yanira Martínez por correo electrónico.)</p> <p>Viejo San Juan ha sido una ciudad santuaria de gatos por muchas décadas, como otras en el planeta, y con toda certeza lo seguirá siendo. Son parte de la experiencia y comunidad Viejosanjuanera. Periódicamente es justo y necesario revisar los planes de manejo de nuestra colonia para hacer los ajustes que nos permita mantener una sana convivencia entre todo los seres sintientes que compartimos la ciudad.</p> <p>La alternativa NO es "eliminar" los gatos, ni es posible hacerlo. No vaya a ser que el remedio sea peor... recuerden que existe tal cosa como el "efecto de vacío" (www.alleycat.org/resources/the-vacuum-effect-why-catch-and-kill-doesnt-work). La alternativa es lograr un plan efectivo de coordinación entre Turismo, Municipio de San Juan y National Park Service para colaborar con la labor de Save-A-Gato. "Long overdue".</p> <p>Gracias por la oportunidad y contamos con su colaboración. Que para bien sea.</p>
822	I'm agains the removal of local cats in Old San Juan. It is their home and they do not bother residents or tourists.
823	Clearly the local cats are now a vital and much loved part of the ecosystem in Viejo San Juan. Tourists and locals overwhelmingly enjoy the cats presence. They especially enjoy more than they would enjoy the rodents that will flourish without a healthy population of cats. From the research I've done, it seems that predation on native species by cats is much overplayed. Most of it is pure guess and conjecture. It's been my experience that cats tends to hunt rodents far more than birds. Birds are difficult prey for most cats to get. And these "studies" don't take into account how rodents invade bird nests and eat their clutch.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Please leave the cats as they are. I would love to visit someday and have the opportunity to enjoy the cats of Viejo San Juan.
824	Please leave the cats alone. They single-handedly reign in the rats. Removing the cats will remove the pressure on the rat population. The human disease that can follow from an unchecked rat population would be terrible.
825	Humans have always co-existed with cats. Cats do not pose a threat, and instead bring joy to people who see them. Cats are a charming feature of Old San Juan and visitors like me enjoy seeing them. You kill the cats, you kill part of the spirit of Old San Juan. This is a revolting proposal. Let nature and Old San Juan be.
826	I am writing to register my opposition to your plan to remove cats from areas of San Juan, Puerto Rico. The cats were introduced to deal with an overwhelming rodent problem. This problem will resurface if the cats are removed. It is inhumane and completely unnecessary to kill these cats. Please leave the cats alone! Thank you for your attention.
827	I oppose the National Park Service's proposal to interfere with the cats of San Juan. They aren't hurting anyone, and the residents and tourists enjoy them. They perform a service keeping the city free from vermin. So back off and leave them alone!! IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT!
828	Leave the cats alone! My wife and I travel regularly to the Caribbean including Puerto Rico. One of the big draws is the authentic architectural and cultural/zoological history you can find there. The roosters of Key West are one example. The cats of old San Juan are not merely an aesthetic feature, they are also biologically significant, keeping the rat population in check. That in turn helps preserve historical structures and maintain a pleasant tourist experience. Please leave the cats alone. The cost-benefit analysis for removing the cats is 100% cost and 0% benefit.
829	Dirty is the government. Those are the ones that should be taken out. Why be bothered by calm, inoffensive, and cute cats? We need smart and useful people in the government. Please.
830	<p>It has been a wish of mine to visit Old San Juan for many years - this is in large part due to the pictures and articles I have seen and read about the famous Cats of Old San Juan. Please do not remove or destroy these wonderful creatures that are so much a part of your history and culture - thereby turning yourselves into yet another generic and sterile tourist attraction.</p> <p>Further to this, it should be noted that a large and rapid reduction in cats would result in an increase in rats. It doesn't take long for rats to overwhelm an area (as is very much in evidence in my country, the UK). I understand that there are already organisations in place that work valiantly to trap, neuter and release feral cats. The NPS knows this already because they partner with one of these organizations, Save A Gato. Since starting TNR in 2004, Save A Gato has reduced the cat population by 50%. It would make considerably more sense, as well as be considerably more humane, to increase aid to this organisation, and others like it, rather than to remove and/or destroy this important and precious part of your cultural heritage.</p> <p>I would ask that you please consider all of the possible ramifications that a large reduction/removal of these cats would create, and consider all other options available.</p>
831	I was just made aware of the "free-ranging cat management plan" and the potential options that could include removing the animals. Please reconsider and use the financial resources of the NPS to bring in volunteer vets and volunteers to sterilize the cats instead of

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>ethanizing. These cats are a large part of the history and charm of Old San Juan. Please reconsider.</p>
832	<p>The cats in Old San Juan are a WONDERFUL part of this beautiful park. Removing them would take away a huge part of Old San Juan's character and charm. Please instead support Save A Gato organization to continue to spay and neuter these cats, provide veterinary attention to sick/injured cats, and secure homes for adoptable cats. I lived in San Juan 15 years ago and have visited as a tourist several times, and I have never ever seen or smelled cat feces. The cats are well cared for and friendly. They are an important part of the culture. Please listen to the people of Puerto Rico who do NOT want these cats removed!</p>
833	<p>The Cats of Old San Juan have been there for centuries and have a place in the community. The cats have organized and funded care through the nonprofit 501(c)3 organization Save A Gato. The National Park Service should support Save A Gato and its TNR program, allowing the cats to remain. Please do not eradicate this cat population, there is no good reason to do so and it will take away a cherished part of the Old San Juan community. Help the cats, don't kill the cats!</p>
834	<p>As a researcher in cost-effectiveness, the decision to murder this community of cats is both cost-inefficient and unethical, which will affect NPS's public image and increase its chances of being sued.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ethics: Euthanizing/murdering cats is unethical. Historic massacres are looked down on and because current animal rights laws are outdated, does not mean it's humane to kill this community of cats. Future lawsuits likely. 2. History and Attachment: These cats are the heart of El Viejo San Juan and while spaying/neutering is something Puerto Rican locals are in favor of, the rich history and presence of these felines is sacred to us and our communities feel an emotional attachment to them in a way that cannot be expressed with words. 3. Economy: American and international tourists love these cats. I've witnessed tourists stop and gape at these cat communities myself. You can confirm this with any tourist. Puerto Rico's economy depends a lot on tourism and anything that diminishes our brand/image/offering could significantly impact our economy, wealth, and quality of life. Puerto Rico is already poorer than the poorest American state and lives in a continuous recession. How will the NPS make up for this financial loss when PR's economy and debt are in such a terrible state? 4. Better solutions: Killing these cats is a short-term solution. New cats WILL continue to appear in these areas. The funds that would have been used to kill these cats would be better utilized for longer-term solutions: 1) Spaying/neutering 2) Educating locals on why they can't dump new cats into these areas and should be neutering/spaying cats and lastly 3) [Need to consult this with SaveAGato and cat experts] If location is an issue, these cats could be relocated somewhere and survive off nature without being killed. 5. Financial Opportunities: There are so many more possibilities that you haven't considered or allowed stakeholders to research. Possibility #1: Spaying/neutering the cats and selling them for a small profit to be adopted by both locals and Americans!!!! Possibility #2: The global pet market is worth \$261 billion. It is projected that people in the USA will spend close to \$109.6 billion on their pets in 2022. In 2020, there was an 18% increase in pet food

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>sales in the USA."</p> <p>6. Consequences: The backlash that you will face if you disempower Puerto Ricans will be ugly.</p> <p>7. National Park Service Image: Once word gets out of this massacre, even Americans will be bashing on the NPS. Again, future lawsuits likely.</p>
835	<p>Please do not murder cats!!! I have been to Puerto Rico and have fallen in love with the cats! Please do the right and humane thing!</p>
836	<p>Good morning. I was disturbed when I learned of the National Park Service plan to cull the cats of San Juan. From an aesthetic and economic perspective , this is foolish. The cats of San Juan are a beloved institution, delighting tourists and residents alike. The cats are so popular that calendars and picture books featuring the cats have become a cottage industry, bringing money to local artists and creatives. On the other hand, we see no demonstrated economic harm being caused by the cats, nor are they destroying the aesthetic that attracts visitors from around the world. To the contrary, if the art devoted to the cats is any indication, to say nothing of millions of testimonials from delighted tourists and residents alike, they are seen as a beloved feature of a San Juan visit. From a public health perspective, this is foolish. A thriving cat population reduces the population of destructive, disease carrying vermin such as rats. Finally, from an ethical and moral perspective, this is appalling. The cats will, we well know, not be subject to a "trap and release" style program where they will be caught, chipped, neutered, and released back into San Juan. They will be killed. Using federal tax dollars to slaughter a population of helpless and beloved animals should be seen as repugnant to any decent American.</p> <p>I would be happy to supply any relevant exhibits or links should that so be desired.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p>
837	<p>I am writing in regards to the ill-thought plan to remove the cats in Puerto Rico. I strongly oppose such a plan. There are currently non-profits who have taken on management of these cats, including Save a Gato. These cats are loved by many in Puerto Rico and by the tourists who come to visit. These cats are a feature, not a bug. I have no doubt that there are many people who visit your country just to see these cats. They also provide a service, namely keeping vermin population down. If you get rid of the cats, mice and rat populations will explode, carrying disease and destroying goods and food,</p> <p>I believe the park service is creating an issue where there is none. If the cat population is somehow creating an unsafe environment in the parks (doubtful), then the park service should address this with the local citizens and non-profits who take care of these cats and let the people who live and work with these cats come up with a plan to address everyone's needs, including the needs of the cats.</p> <p>These cats deserve to live.</p>
838	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Thank you for soliciting comments.</p> <p>The stated aim of culling the cats is to enhance the experience of people visiting San Juan.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Visitors, like me, love the cats!</p> <p>The cats are a big part of the experience of San Juan. They are citizens of San Juan and are as beautiful as the sculptures and scenery.</p> <p>Please do not mess with a 500 year old practice. It will not enhance anything and may encourage rats.</p> <p>Respectfully requesting you refrain.</p>
839	<p>Hello -</p> <p>Please consider the important environmental impact removing the cats of San Juan Puerto Rico would have on the city. These cats, like their feral brethren in Miami Beach, are essential in curbing rodent populations. Rats bring disease and these cats make sure the rats cannot populate and spread illness. Residents Miami Beach help monitor colony health and trap, neuter and release the felines so their colonies remain healthy and manageable. Why not implement this same policy (if not already in place)? Why go straight to removal? What will you do with the booming rat population that will result from the removal of the cats - more chemicals and removal? Rats are much more difficult to remove than cats - and therefore, much more expensive. Please listen to the RESIDENTS of San Juan - not the bureaucrats who have not considered the unintended consequences of their actions and do not have to live with those consequences either.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
840	<p>I would like to express my opposition to the proposed management plan for the cat population. The plan does not have a sound rationale, either in scientific evidence or in public support. On the contrary, the cats are a cultural and historical asset to this community. Please scrap this plan.</p>
841	<p>Re: plan to remove cats from Old San Juan</p> <p>Unless you are going to restructure the environmental, genetic, and epigenetic drivers for the cats wanting to populate the space, you will cull beloved lives without meaningfully impacting the forces driving their occupancy there.</p> <p>A more rational and humane plan would be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Decide what population cats you are happy with in the area 2) Once that percentage is set, you can create a simple model sterilizing a percentage of cats each year to reach that desired point. Discuss with animal behavioralists and veterinarians as to whether it is better to sterilize the males or the females or some mix of both to make sure that patterns of aggression (or other behaviors) are not more adversely affected by one policy or the other. 3) Using either sampling methods (tag a percentage of cats) or tag as many (or all) cats and keep doing so if they are not tagged with embedded RFID chips so you can assess the

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>efficacy of your policy and tune-up or tune-down your sterilization rate</p> <p>4) Yes, this method would require ongoing sterilization of new felines entering the population, but that is true of any policy once you march down the path of active management.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my remarks.</p>
842	<p>The cats of Old San Juan are a national treasure that should not be eliminated. There are already groups like Save A Gato that do amazing work to TNR these cats and control the population. This was a seriously bad problem 10 years ago, but not so much anymore thanks to the work of private organizations and generous volunteers. A euthanasia program (lets not kid ourselves, that is what these cats will be subjected to) will be a waste of taxpayer money to solve a non-issue and eradicate a cultural hallmark of Old San Juan. Leave the cats alone!</p>
843	<p>1. Ethics: Euthanizing/murdering cats is unethical. Historic massacres are looked down on and because current animal rights laws are outdated, does not mean it's humane to kill this community of cats. Future lawsuits likely.</p> <p>2. History and Attachment: These cats are the heart of El Viejo San Juan and while spaying/neutering is something Puerto Rican locals are in favor of, the rich history and presence of these felines is sacred to us and our communities feel an emotional attachment to them in a way that cannot be expressed with words.</p> <p>3. Economy: American and international tourists love these cats. I've witnessed tourists stop and gape at these cat communities myself. You can confirm this with any tourist. Puerto Rico's economy depends a lot on tourism and anything that diminishes our brand/image/offering could significantly impact our economy, wealth, and quality of life. Puerto Rico is already poorer than the poorest American state and lives in a continuous recession. How will the NPS make up for this financial loss when PR's economy and debt are in such a terrible state?</p> <p>4. Better solutions: Killing these cats is a short-term solution. New cats WILL continue to appear in these areas. The funds that would have been used to kill these cats would be better utilized for longer-term solutions: 1) Spaying/neutering 2) Educating locals on why they can't dump new cats into these areas and should be neutering/spaying cats and lastly 3) [Need to consult this with SaveAGato and cat experts] If location is an issue, these cats could be relocated somewhere and survive off nature without being killed.</p> <p>5. Financial Opportunities: There are so many more possibilities that you haven't considered or allowed stakeholders to research. Possibility #1: Spaying/neutering the cats and selling them for a small profit to be adopted by both locals and Americans!!!! Possibility #2: The global pet market is worth \$261 billion. It is projected that people in the USA will spend close to \$109.6 billion on their pets in 2022. In 2020, there was an 18% increase in pet food sales in the USA."</p> <p>6. Consequences: The backlash that you will face if you disempower Puerto Ricans will be ugly.</p> <p>7. National Park Service Image: Once word gets out of this massacre, even Americans will be bashing on the NPS. Again, future lawsuits likely.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
844	<p>I have visited Old San Juan with my family and expect to do so again. I must say, of all the PRESSING needs of Puerto Rico--for weather recovery projects, for hospital service, for affordable housing, for better education, ad infinitum--this proposal to "manage" the cat population of Puerto Rico's Old San Juan seems misguided, at best.</p> <p>Removal of a predator in an ecosystem disrupts the entire ecosystem. What will be the effect on the resident rodent population? How soon will the original cats be replaced by new strays?</p> <p>If "management" of the cat population means financial support for EXISTING trap-neuter-release efforts by "Save a Gato," by all means find the funds! It is time to be working in greater collaboration with this U.S. Territory, which gets scant attention and little respect from its "owners," despite its great needs.</p>
845	<p>we want them to protect the cats of San Juan. we don't want them to be taken out. we wish you would leave them in their place. we don't want them to be killed or euthanized. Let's save the kittens of San Juan.</p>
846	<p>Please do not exterminate the cats. It is the worst possible solution to this issue. Save A Gato has been performing TNR on the community of cats for years. Here are some ideas to consider instead:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Use the government funds to instead to hire resources to perform a more comprehensive TNR and regular maintenance of the cat population. 2.) Create widespread awareness marketing campaign + approve severe penalties to both tourist/locals for abandoning, abusing, overbreeding, or neglecting their pets (cat or dog). Humans must take responsibility for making this problem worse by abandoning and overbreeding their pets. 3.) Turn the now better controlled cat population into a monitored tourist attraction that can potentially generate revenue. This can be done by creating viral marketing campaigns, events, donation QR codes, cat cafe, cat sanctuary (including paid entry), tours, and so on. Tourists already regularly feed and visit stray cats all over the city but do not have a streamlined way to commit money, food, or other resources to this cause. 4.) If needed, find a place to relocate the cats and still implement all of the above items. 5.) Social media campaign to streamline all awareness, marketing, and tourism efforts, approved by government, to help spread awareness of this and also drive traffic and interest to the cat population. This can potentially generate revenue and also cross-tourism marketing to other tourist attractions in the VSJ and SJ area.
847	<p>Is the National Park Service "Public Servants" or "Public Masters"? Stop acting like Conquistadores - you aren't! This MUST be a local choice.</p>
848	<p>San Juan's cats are a big part of the tourist experience. I have no idea why the service thinks they are a big problem, but you will hurt small businesses in San Juan if they lose their cats. Maybe the service just wants to flaunt its power like so many federal agencies lately.</p>
849	<p>SAVE THE GATO</p>
850	<p>Sale the </p>
851	<p>Dear NPS,</p> <p>My experience in San Juan was only improved by the wonderful cats. Indeed, they are a reason I continue to travel to Puerto Rico.</p> <p>I also lived in NYC and they could use some more cats. The rats there are out of control and are dangerous to humans.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>The cats in San Juan, with the gorgeous 500 year old buildings, do help keep the town rat-free. They boost tourism and the locals love them. They are iconic.</p> <p>Instead of "removing" them, a thought would be to have a "Spay/Neuter" day once a month, when the locals can bring in a cat or 2 for sterilization. I bet you would find a vet who would do this for free.</p> <p>Please let the cats stay. If they go, I don't see much point returning to San Juan. Especially when I know that they were "put down";</p> <p>Regards,</p>
852	Let the cats live silly goose!!!!
853	If there isn't a problem with the cats, don't bother getting ridding them, it could introduce problems later on. Don't try to fix what isn't broken. The cats have been there a lot longer than you have.
854	Save a Gato charity is carrying out a neutering program and taking care of the animals .I think the local people should have a say in how the cats are handled.The cats have been in San Juan for over five hundred years, I think they have earned a right to stay.TNR is being handled by organizations all over the world effectively.
855	<p>In response to the NPS plan to remove a portion of the cat population from Old San Juan, we urge you to reconsider this ill-conceived plan. The cats are a feature of this historic site beloved by residents and tourists equally. They have been there since the colonial period, for goodness sake.</p> <p>But, more importantly, they serve a PURPOSE. The reason human populations have invited and cultivated cat companions is to keep rodent infestations in check. They are perhaps the most effective and efficient answer to these prolific disease carriers. Finally, does the NPS want to be known for killing wholesale the cherished community pets of a territory of the United States? Doesn't seem like a good look.</p>
856	One of my fondest memories of San Juan was the cats. Many of my other memories are not positive. Please do not change that.
857	As a friend of Puerto Rico, I am appalled and vehemently opposed to your plan to euthanize the feral cats of Old San Juan. They are loved by the locals and the local population wants them to remain a part of the culture and environment. The NPS has no business making unilateral decisions regarding the welfare of these cats.
858	<p>PLEASE ALLOW ALL THE BEAUTIFUL CATS TO ROAM FREE! These are beautiful creatures of God's Creation! "Moving" these cats will be a travesty and a great loss for this community, of which the cats are a part of! These beautiful creatures bring JOY AND LOVE to all.</p> <p>"The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their food from God. When the sun rises, they gather together and lie down in their dens." - PSALMS 104:21-22</p> <p>May God our Heavenly Father protect the cats of San Juan, PR. In God's Name I pray. Amen</p>
859	I have never visited Puerto Rico although I would love to. However, having spent a decent amount of time in Europe, where I currently reside, I can attest to the joy that community cats bring to a neighborhood. In addition to pest control, the cats become the defacto pets of the neighborhood and bring joy to the residents. I have personally brought bottled water to the

Corr ID	Correspondence
	cats of Madrid in a heatwave. Removing these treasured and valuable residents would deprive the community of much of it's heritage and joy.
860	It seems like Park Service not acting in best wisdom to act without respect for a 500 year old tradition. Cats or rats is your choice in Viejo San Juan.
861	Please leave the cats alone. They have done nothing but, solve the rat problem, attract tourists, and Please the locals. If you remove the cats , the rats will be a problem again. Have you learned nothing from past mistakes like: the killing of the Buffalo, removing the yellow stone waves (and the problems they caused in Fremont County Wy for one) a d using poison to kill invasive species of fish that were placed in lakes creating a far worse problem they they were meant to solve. Please stop the madness stop creating problems where there are none and learn from the misguided mistakes of the past. SAVE THE CATS LET THEM BE.
862	Please leave the cats alone. They have done nothing but, solve the rat problem, attract tourists, and Please the locals. If you remove the cats , the rats will be a problem again. Have you learned nothing from past mistakes like: the killing of the Buffalo, removing the yellow stone waves (and the problems they caused in Fremont County Wy for one) a d using poison to kill invasive species of fish that were placed in lakes creating a far worse problem they they were meant to solve. Please stop the madness stop creating problems where there are none and learn from the misguided mistakes of the past. SAVE THE CATS LET THEM BE.
863	save the cats of san juan The cats have controlled rats and other vermin for 500 years in San Juan If you want San Juan overrun with rats, then just say so.
864	Cats are magical, entertaining creatures. On a practical level, cats who live outdoors keep other unwanted outdoor creatures, like rats, in check. The old San Juan cats are a mainstay of life there. And, the cats of VSJ are much beloved and featured in guidebooks, calendars, photo collections, and of course the happy and lasting memories of millions of visitors. As there is currently no study, no practical ethics and no sound reason to change 500 years of practice, it makes more sense to leave the cats to be enjoyed as part of the cultural appeal by the local residents and tourists, than it does to mess with something that is working and create a void in life in Old San Juan. Thank you for considering and my hope is you will protect the cats and let them stay to be enjoyed!
865	"..the U.S. National Park Service wants to implement a "free-ranging cat management plan" and is considering options that could include removing the animals..." Exactly What is Wrong with you people. Looking for something to do? Why are you imposing your misbegotten information and deriving a solution that Nobody in Puerto Rico wants, needs, nor is in favor of. listen to the population you SERVE, and back the hell off. Please and Thank you.
866	I urge you to abandon any plans to interfere with the cat population of Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. Any such plan is a solution without a problem. Does anybody really want this to happen? The cats are a historic presence in that community, bringing joy to its inhabitants and visitors and also protecting it from rats. Please leave a good situation alone. Thank you.
867	I do not know the situation in PR, but this so-called "plan" appears to be both wildly unpopular and downright inhumane. It imposes a solution where there is no problem. WHY would you disallow these gentle, human-friendly beasts their right to live, unmolested and appreciated in the communities that they know?

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Does this come down to some apparatchik angling for federal grant monies?</p> <p>Please do not be "a solution in search of a problem";</p> <p>This approach inevitably, unfailingly leads to greater and greater unintended consequences.</p>
868	<p>Please don't cull the cats. Use birth control methods to keep the population down.</p>
869	<p>There is not a single argument in this plan that makes conclusively for a reason why cats should be removed. In fact, there is the assumption that the presence of cats in this park are a detriment, and there is no evaluation of the harms of their removal (rodent infestation being just the tip of the iceberg there).</p> <p>NONE OF THE BENEFITS OF HAVING CATS ARE EXAMINED. Only cons. No pros. This is not an objective evaluation, rather it is an attack on living, largely thriving beings by a political agenda.</p> <p>No evidence-based or observation-based data are provided. Instead, it is filled with 'scientized' conjecture about the cats. And many of these claims are just wrong, and miss the point that the cats here directly PART OF THE CULTURE OF THE PARK.</p> <p>This is atrocious and an attack on a place that many people go to visit for the sake of their presence.</p>
870	<p>I oppose the U.S. National Park Service plan to remove the cats of San Juan under the Free-Ranging Cat Management Plan.</p> <p>Please reconsider this plan and do not remove the cats. The cats keep the rat population under control which is very important.</p>
871	<p>I'm writing in opposition to the proposal regarding a change in how the cats of Viejo San Juan will be treated/handled in the future.</p> <p>I've been to old San Juan, and while the cats were not a reason for visiting, their presence certainly added to the charm, and historic nature of the experience.</p> <p>The Agency is reported to have pursued this plan to improve "visitor experience"; I would contend that the NEPA process is flawed in its ability to discern such a metric in an appropriate way. The cats are part of the history, and help tell that story.</p> <p>The Agency also seeks to "protect cultural and natural resources", but removing the cats removes a part of the history and culture of Puerto Rico, and will create a void in the ecosystem that has already evolved over hundreds of years. If you think appropriate wildlife will fill that void, you're wrong. Rats and other vermin have been kept at bay for centuries specifically because of the cats, and will return.</p> <p>And the cats pose less of a health and safety concern than do gulls and pigeons, whose scat is highly pathogenic.</p> <p>In closing, this proposed change is short-sighted, and liable to lead to some very nasty unintended consequences.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
872	<p>PLEASE do not do damage to the cats. Why would you? It makes no sense to get rid of cats, who get rid of rats and mice. Please use common sense and do not upset the applectart before you think through the consequences, the domino of effects that would fall into place if you no longer had cats.</p> <p>Thank you for your help in this matter.</p>
873	<p>NO NOT HARM ANY OF THE CATS OF OLD SAN JUAN! NO NOT EXTERMINATE ANY OF THEM! THEY HAVE AS MUCH RIGHT TO LIFE AS ANY HUMAN. THE CONTROL THE RAT POPULATION.</p>
874	<p>Please leave the cats They have rights too They are part of the charm and history Thank you</p>
875	<p>I am writing to express my concerns about the NPS proposal to remove or reduce the Cats of Old San Juan, PR.</p> <p>My biggest concern is that a large and rapid reduction in cats would result in an increase in rats. It doesn't take long for rats to overwhelm an area. In addition, I question the efficacy of removing a large population of feral cats, since nearby cats are known to simply expand into the area that has been vacated. Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is endorsed by the ASPCA as "the only proven humane and effective method to manage feral cat colonies."</p> <p>There are already organizations in place that work to trap, neuter and release these cats. The NPS knows this, because they partner with one of these organizations, Save A Gato. Since starting TNR in 2004, Save A Gato has reduced the cat population by 50%. Please consider all of the possible ramifications that a large reduction/removal of these cats would create.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention.</p>
876	<p>Es una verdeja estupidez pensar q son Los Gatos los q ensucian EVSJ . Es el hombre quien deja orín y confines hasta en las garitas! Se llenará d ratas y d cucarachas como cdo no había gatos</p>
877	<p>Please do not go forward with the mass killing of the cats of San Juan. This is cruel and not necessary. Please consider putting resources to trap neuter release, which will limit the population over a relatively short time but is more humane</p>
878	<p>Why are you listening to Progressives? Unlike the gatos, they serve no purpose whatsoever except to make everyone else as miserable as they are. If you have a problem with the gatos, YOU are the one with the problem!! Please take care of them - unless you love rats and other vermin that they take care of for you without making you pay for it. Si to gatos, no to idiots.</p>
879	<p>Leave the cats alone please. They have been part of San Juan for 500 years. They are loved by residents and tourists alike. They serve a valuable purpose in suppressing rodent populations. They do not deserve to be murdered.</p>
880	<p>Our family has an affinity for the National Parks and have been to 285 of them. We have not been to Old San Juan at this time but look forward to it in the future. I do hope that we will see the legendary cats of Old San Juan when we get there. Please do not destroy this unique aspect of the national park. Please do not destroy the lives of these cats. Please do not destroy the beauty that they add to our world. Please do not destroy the functionality that they provide</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	by limiting the vermin. Please save the cats of Old San Juan!!! Thank you for your time and attention to this very important matter!
881	I contribute to the National Park Service and, in fact, have you as one of my beneficiaries in my will. I will remove you from my will and will stop supporting you financially if you follow through with plans to euthanize the cats of Old San Juan Puerto Rico. I would support a capture, neuter, release program which would in time reduce the number of cats if that is the concern of the NPS. I know from experience that some cats evade capture and continue to breed, thus ensuring a continuing presence. What is your real reason for wanting to exterminate the cats?
882	The cats are part of the attraction and they are well taken care of. Other countries have been successful by keeping the cats as part of the scenery and tourists like it--why everything has to be a problem here?
883	<p>1. Ethics: Euthanizing/murdering cats is unethical. Historic massacres are looked down on and because current animal rights laws are outdated, does not mean it's humane to kill this community of cats. Future lawsuits likely.</p> <p>2. History and Attachment: These cats are the heart of El Viejo San Juan and while spaying/neutering is something Puerto Rican locals are in favor of, the rich history and presence of these felines is sacred to us and our communities feel an emotional attachment to them in a way that cannot be expressed with words.</p> <p>3. Economy: American and international tourists love these cats. I've witnessed tourists stop and gape at these cat communities myself. You can confirm this with any tourist. Puerto Rico's economy depends a lot on tourism and anything that diminishes our brand/image/offering could significantly impact our economy, wealth, and quality of life. Puerto Rico is already poorer than the poorest American state and lives in a continuous recession. How will the NPS make up for this financial loss when PR's economy and debt are in such a terrible state?</p> <p>4. Better solutions: Killing these cats is a short-term solution. New cats WILL continue to appear in these areas. The funds that would have been used to kill these cats would be better utilized for longer-term solutions: 1) Spaying/neutering 2) Educating locals on why they can't dump new cats into these areas and should be neutering/spaying cats and lastly 3) [Need to consult this with SaveAGato and cat experts] If location is an issue, these cats could be relocated somewhere and survive off nature without being killed.</p> <p>5. Financial Opportunities: There are so many more possibilities that you haven't considered or allowed stakeholders to research. Possibility #1: Spaying/neutering the cats and selling them for a small profit to be adopted by both locals and Americans!!!! Possibility #2: The global pet market is worth \$261 billion. It is projected that people in the USA will spend close to \$109.6 billion on their pets in 2022. In 2020, there was an 18% increase in pet food sales in the USA."</p> <p>6. Consequences: The backlash that you will face if you disempower Puerto Ricans will be ugly.</p> <p>7. National Park Service Image: Once word gets out of this massacre, even Americans will be bashing on the NPS. Again, future lawsuits likely.</p>

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884	<p>TNR is a proven method of maintaining a healthy and reasonable cat population while also keeping rodent population. Trap and kill does not work as cats reproduce to fill the vacuum. And if you are successful in removing the cats, you will find a rodent population explosion. Probably snakes as well. Cats may stay out of restaurant kitchens, rats and mice do not. Not to mention rounding up and killing animals is wildly unpopular. This will hurt your tourism and also local support. The cats are a managed colony. Leave them be. Live and let live.</p>
885	<p>Dear Parks Service,</p> <p>As a visitor to San Juan's history district one thing I really enjoyed is seeing the cats and not seeing mice and rats -like in NYC.</p> <p>Please leave the cat population in San Juan as is. Eradication and removal measures are unnecessary and will disrupt the natural order of the area. Your initiative to remove the cats is ill thought out. It reminds me of Key West's initiative to remove the chickens-expensive and unwanted. There was a large out cry in Key West, after which the initiative to remove the chickens was stopped. Please note the initiatives to maintain feral cat populations in Chicago has resulted in reduction of rats and other disease carrying pests while providing companionship and entertainment to residents. Similarly the cats in San Juan will provide reduction of vermin and allow the local character of the old town to be seen.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of my feedback,</p>
886	<p>I am writing in regard to the cats in Old San Juan. One of the options that the park service is considering is to continue with the status quo which includes volunteer care for the cats through Save a Gato. I am questioning why the government feels the need to spend taxpayer money when a very willing group of volunteers is handling the care of the cats so well. If the numbers have indeed grown significantly from their historical equilibrium, perhaps the Save a Gato group could offer a few of the cats for individual adoptions. I would like to register my support for leaving the status quo. Thank you.</p>
887	<p>I hereby wish to express my opposition to the removal of cats in El Viejo San Juan, P.R. There is no evidence that support a negative impact made by these well cared, sterilize and vaccinated cats. These cats have been cared for and monitored by the organization named Save a Gato. There is no need for them to be taken away by the National Park Service. Every time I visit old San Juan I love to see them, and I'm not bothered by their presence. The National Park Service should leave them alone and focus on other problems like homelessness in the area.</p>
888	<p>I am submitting public comment in support of maintaining the cat colony.</p> <p>While I am not a resident of PR, I have visited this park and loved the cats. It made the park truly special.</p> <p>My family plans our vacations yearly to include visits to our National Parks. We have a park pass and have visited dozens of National Parks over the years. We support our National Parks because they are treasures.</p> <p>This park with the cats is no exception. It's a national treasure with the presence of the cats and their removal would bring shame to the NPS.</p> <p>As an animal lover and caretaker of several feral cat colonies over the years, I implore you to leave the cat colony in place and ensure that they are well cared for.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
889	<p>We are all God's creatures. Killing for no justifiable reason is brutally savage and detestable. Is this your beautiful city will be remembered?</p>
890	<p>Please leave the cats of old San Juan alone. We all love them, tourists and locals alike. Cats have been used for pest control very successfully all over the world and there is a charity looking after them who is also in charge of the TNR program so the gouvernement really doesn't need to get involved at all. I don't know who had this « brilliant » idea to « relocate » the cats. We know what it really mean and they need to be held accountable for what they are about to do. Animal cruelty. That's what it is.</p>
891	<p>Stop trying to invent problems that you don't need to solve. I've never been to San Juan but actually am planning to travel there next year. Please don't act like imperialists, ruining a feature of San Juan. Let the cats live (and let them take care of the rats just as they have been for years).</p>
892	<p>The stray "free roaming" cats should have been gotten rid of 21 years ago. Where in the United States are such conditions allowed to be so disgustingly maintained? Only in PR. Stray cats and their feces, urine and stench need to be r removed from the federal property maintained by the federal services. The NPS should be ashamed to allow such conditions. The public health of visitors and park property users deserves better. Stop pandering to the loudest interest group and make the paseo useable by all tax payers according to the established standards followed everywhere else in the federal lands inventory.</p>
893	<p>Please leave the cats of Old San Juan alone. The don't bother anyone and tourists and locals love them</p>
894	<p>I am commenting on the unimaginable plan to &quot;manage&quot; Old San Juan's cat population. This is a terrible idea! My husband's family is from Puerto Rico and the times I have gone over to visit included a visit to Old San Juan. I so enjoyed the beautiful cats that roam the streets. I was told that many of them are direct descendents of the cats who came over 500 years ago with the Spanish. They were an important part of my visit. Why would anyone want to eradicate that sort of history? Not to mention the fact that they control the rat population. The plumbing and sewers there are ancient and without the cats to manage the rats, you would have a terrible problem on your hands. Why destroy a balance that has been working for so long? I ask that you please shelve this misguided plan. Thank you!</p>
895	<p>Please, I beg of you do not cull the cats of Old San Juan. I am aware of the problems that stray cats can bring - I ran an animal shelter for years. I was able to neuter many of the male cats - I am sure if you put out a plea to visiting vets they would do this. Cats are integral to pest control in San Juan. They are integral to the ecosystem. Please show them kindness and mercy. They have actually worked hard to make Old San Juan what it is. thank you and please consider what I have said</p>
896	<p>I've never been to Puerto Rico, but knowing there's a community of cats and their friends makes me want to visit as a tourist. When I traveled in Europe, I was charmed by the cats of Kotor, Montenegro and Istanbul. A town without cats is boring. I hope to visit San Juan and enjoy the cats. They aren't just cute and don't just provide connection for the tourist, they also keep the rodent population down.</p> <p>I'm glad to read that there's an organization that spays and neuters them, and caring people who feed them. I hope to be one of those people when I visit. Getting rid of the cats will no doubt get rid of some tourists and increase the rat population. I hope you will leave the cats alone, they are probably the most wonderful memories many tourists have.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
897	Why is killing always the human solution. Rather use the resources to conduct a thorough sterilization campaign of the cats to prevent further growth in the cat population. Then return them to the streets where they are loved and cared for by residents & visitors alike. And speaking of visitors consider the negative impact on tourism which undoubtedly is necessary. Ultimately Be Kind not cruel
898	These cats are so much a part of the city that I and many other tourists love to see. Kill them if you want to invite more rats and mice and less tourists. Otherwise just leave them alone to live out their lives in peace. The cats have every right to be there and are an absolute blessing to the city.
899	Please don't wage war in the cats of San Juan. They are a living part of the island's history, and tourists love them.
900	Leave the cats alone in San Juan
901	This population of cats are descendants of centuries performing a useful service controlling rodents. Locals and tourists appreciate them. Leave them to provide their service to the town.
902	Killing animals is a crime. In Puerto Rico we advocate for TNR. We spend lots of our own money in taking strays to be sterilized and release. Unfortunately, many cruel people poison them and what they suffer is indescribable. My neighbors have poison around 30 cats I have TNR. No pity. We want to be civilized like other countries, I.e. Lima has a Parque de Los Gatos and the government sprays them and releases them there. There are hundreds of cats and people feed them. We are in 2022 and need to understand that animals are part of our society. This Old San Juan project has been carefully and excellently managed. Be civilized and help us keep the cats.
903	Hello, I just returned from Puerto Rico and the day after I arrived home I was informed of this horrible consideration By the Park Management. People of the United States do not condone this treatment of animals whatsoever. I am a Strong supporter and contribute my time and money to help not only the cats of San Juan but ALL of the homeless, abandoned and abused animals in Puerto Rico. People who have visited Puerto Rico come back to the states in disgust on how the animals are treated on the Island. The kill rate in the shelters is astronomical and Puerto Rico as a whole should be ashamed. I can guarantee if anything is done to the cats of Puerto Rico I will have it on EVERY NEWS CHANNEL in the Country. Puerto Rico will be seen as an Island of hostility and slaughter. Do you not recall what happened in 2007? When a company "HIRED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT" threw dogs to their death! How can the gatos be called an invasive species? Humans are the invasive species. They kill, maul, torture both humans and animals on a daily basis. Start working with shelter partners and politicians from the states to get some of these abused animals off the Island and to the states to people who will care and love them. I will be forwarding a letter off to every news station in the states this week. Puerto Rico will become one of those Islands tourists WILL NO LONGER VISIT due to animal cruelty. The Gatos of San Juan and All the animals of Puerto Rico are not alone! They have the United States behind them!
904	Although Canadian, I have visited your country often, and am writing to you now about the planned extermination of cats in VSJ Puerto Rico. Those cats are the stuff of legend, and I urge you to reconsider. I live in a small rural town of farms and fisheries in Maritime Canada. We are blessed with a large population of feral cats that many feed, name, and watch from afar. They are valued for the work they do keeping the even-more-ample populations of all kinds of rodents from the barns and outbuildings where they spend the winter. They aren't the glossy, gorgeous

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	<p>creatures adorning the streets and shore of VSJ which, without doubt, perform the same invaluable service.</p> <p>What we occasionally do here to influence overpopulation is trap as many as will be caught in live box traps and have them neutered by veterinarians (funded by a local Cat Action team...) then released back into the community. That has been working very well for quite some time, and I recommend it as an obviously more beneficial plan for the cats and the citizens they protect from being overrun by rats. Seriously. Without the cats you get the rats. And your cats are such beauties they are a real tourist attraction!</p> <p>Please rethink. Neutering is better for all concerned.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
905	<p>The proposal to cull the cats of Old San Juan is asinine in the extreme. The cats keep the streets and buildings free from mice and other vermin, and are part of the charm of the historic site. Leave the cats alone!</p>
906	<p>The cats of San Juan in Puerto Rico are important to the locals and also to tourists. They have long been a part of the local ecosystem and have their own place there. Removing them will cause unexpected consequences and make many people sad. Please don't meddle. Leave them alone.</p>
907	<p>Please protect the cats of San Juan. These cats are part of a living history and are loved by members of their community, and paying tourists.</p> <p>Consider a catch & release spay & neuter program to keep population size reasonable and to avoid San Juan becoming pandemic-era New York City.</p> <p>No one wants lots and lots of rats, either.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
908	<p>Please save the cats. I'm from Puerto Rico and cannot believe what I'm hearing.</p>
909	<p>Ethics: Euthanizing/murdering cats is unethical. Historic massacres are looked down on and because current animal rights laws are outdated, does not mean it's humane to kill this community of cats. Future lawsuits likely.</p> <p>History and Attachment: These cats are the heart of El Viejo San Juan and while spaying/neutering is something Puerto Rican locals are in favor of, the rich history and presence of these felines is sacred to us and our communities feel an emotional attachment to them in a way that cannot be expressed with words.</p> <p>Economy: American and international tourists love these cats. I've witnessed tourists stop and gape at these cat communities myself. You can confirm this with any tourist. Puerto Rico's economy depends a lot on tourism and anything that diminishes our brand/image/offering could significantly impact our economy, wealth, and quality of life. Puerto Rico is already poorer than the poorest American state and lives in a continuous recession. How will the NPS make up for this financial loss when PR's economy and debt are in such a terrible state?</p> <p>Better solutions: Killing these cats is a short-term solution. New cats WILL continue to appear in these areas. The funds that would have been used to kill these cats would be better utilized for longer-term solutions: 1) Spaying/neutering 2) Educating locals on why they can't dump new cats into these areas and should be neutering/spaying cats and lastly 3) [Need to consult this with SaveAGato and cat experts] If location is an issue, these cats could be</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>relocated somewhere and survive off nature without being killed.</p> <p>Financial Opportunities: There are so many more possibilities that you haven't considered or allowed stakeholders to research. Possibility #1: Spaying/neutering the cats and selling them for a small profit to be adopted by both locals and Americans!!!! Possibility #2: Leverage the pet industry. The global pet market is worth \$261 billion. It is projected that people in the USA will spend close to \$109.6 billion on their pets in 2022. In 2020, there was an 18% increase in pet food sales in the USA."</p> <p>Consequences: The backlash that you will face if you disempower Puerto Ricans will be ugly. National Park Service Image: Once word gets out of this massacre, even Americans will be bashing on the NPS. Again, future lawsuits likely.</p>
910	<p>Please let the cats remain in Old San Juan. They not only delight tourists and locals, but they keep the rodent population down.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
911	<p>The cats in San Juan have been a feature of the area for many years. Tourists actually love having the cats around. to maintain a humane and wonderful experience for both cats, humans and the environment, leave the cats there. A humane system of management of excrement and over-population can be achieved without eradication.</p>
912	<p>The cats of San Juan satisfy the needs of the community in many ways. Catching and killing cats is cruel and offers no benefits to the community. This misguided plan should be stopped.</p>
913	<p>Animals don't have a voice, but we, the people who loved them are their voice. Think very hard about what you people are pretending to do. The greatness of a society can be measured by the way they treat their animals Turkey TR is a great example of how they live with cats and dogs. Why can the US be like that.. You people should be ashamed to even think of killing these cats. This will be worldwide news and it not represent who we are. Dont do it. That will be in your conscious for the rest of your lives.</p>
914	<p>Please drop the campaign to remove the cats of old San Juan! They are an institution and no doubt protect the people in the area from an abundant rodent population. Remember that the Bubonic Plague spread across Europe following its witch hunts for cats...</p>
915	<p>Continuando con mi exposicion sobre el futuro de los gatitos del paseo del Viejo San Juan(VSJ) del 28 de octubre del 2022, les comparto unos importantes puntos sobre estos magnificos seres parecidos a los humanos. Por ende su proteccion y valor mundial:</p> <p>Cerebro de los gatos y su inteligencia. Segun el Merck Veterinary Manual, Parts of the Nervous System of Cats, estos magnificos seres cuentan con capacidades similares a los humanos como un:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cerebellum tamaño suficiente grande que los capacita para su conciencia, balance y coordinacion, trepar, vigilar y regular sus movimientos • Corteza cerebral para la cognicion como procesos de consciencia, memoria, planificacion, emociones, funciones motoras y otras • Brain stem para la regulacion de las funciones del cuerpo como temperatura y el ritmo del corazon. <p>Esta inteligencia los capacita para un continuo aprendizaje, para crear un apego con sus guardianes, responder a su voz y adaptarse al ambiente.</p> <p>Es importante recalcar que los movimientos de Justicia Social y animal mundiales los valora por ser seres inteligentes sintentes que cuentan con emociones similares a las humanas. Tan es asi, que se esta cuestionando la manera en que se le conoce como humana la forma de</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>sacrificarlos, pues se desconoce totalmente el impacto en su cerebro y cuerpo al uso de estas letales formas de sacrificarlos que ustedes proponen.</p> <p>Nos preguntamos que impacto adverso pueden crear estas criaturitas en el VSJ como para considerar soluciones extremas Son animales de compania valorados por la comunidad Puertorriquena y la mundial, Ademas hemos visto la reaccion de la comunidad Puertorriquena y de un sinnúmero de países en articulos de periodicos que resenan esta practica que se aleja de tendencias mundialmente humanas esperadas del gobierno federal. El trabajo de Save a Gato ha sido excelente, elogiado y reconocido por muchos.</p> <p>La ausencia de data y la solucion plantaen un issue etico, y se asemeja a practicas inhumanas y de actitudes negativas usadas en esta isla. Nos preguntamos asi mismo, si las alternativas de contratar companias de exterminio que se usan para plagas y otros insectos cuando hemos visto ejemplos de su dudoso manejo con animales domesticos.</p> <p>Asi mismo, la sorpresa de este plan de ustedes nos llena de tristeza, pues una agencia Federal en esta Islita debe contribuir a mantener la confianza del publico. Esto se ha logrado con ideas humanas, cientificas, y legalmente reconocidas, mas con ejemplos y practicas de vanguardia.</p> <p>En San Juan de Puerto Rico, hoy 6 de noviembre del 2022</p>
916	<p>As a tourist I would hate to see the cats of San Juan removed from the city. They are a feature not a nuisance. This is a very bad idea the Parks Board has put forward. The cats are a tourist attraction. They are an integral part of the history and ecology of the island's urban space now. They create a culturally rich more humanistic environment. They keep vermin in control too so there is balance between nature and humans in this very particular urban habitat that has been functioning to the satisfaction of local people for 500 years. Don't mess with local traditions that work. That is a colonial mindset in itself that the Parks Board is displaying. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.</p>
917	<p>I am writing to strongly urge you to cancel your plans to remove the cats of Old San Juan, regardless of the method of removal. Surely, you understand that, in removing the cats, you would be removing the chief natural predator of the rats of Old San Juan, putting the health and safety of citizens and visitors at risk. (This is why the cats were brought to San Juan — to remove the rats, and thus, the risk of plague.)</p> <p>Aside from the common sense, no-cost approach of leaving the cats to do what cats naturally do (i.e., keep rat populations down), I respectfully request that you please provide the public with a substantive reason for your proposal to remove the rats, along with any studies you've conducted or collected that support this rationale.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
918	<p>I AM SUPER AGAINST THE REMOVAL OF THR CATS OF OLD SAN JUAN. THEY ARE HEALTHY AND DO NO PROBLEM AND ARE WELL TAKEN CARE OFF.</p> <p>LEAVE THEM ALONE</p>
919	<p>The cats do not do any harm. Please let them live.</p>
920	<p>When I was a volunteer at the casita cleaning cages, tourists (both local and from outside) would come to say hello to the cats. They let us know that they enjoyed the cats on the paseo</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>and at the casita. My husband and I love visiting Viejo San Juan to go see the cats, and when people visit us, we take them there as well.</p> <p>In practical terms, this means money for Viejo San Juan.</p> <p>The cats are a draw for locals and outsiders alike, and when in Viejo San Juan, we tend to spend money, whether it be for parking, food, drinks, etc.</p> <p>In addition, the cats keep the rats away. Cats were introduced to Puerto, in fact, to keep the population of rats and other rodents under control. If you &quot;manage&quot; (i.e. euthanize) the cats on the paseo, we will end up with a plague of rats. As much as I love animals, rats often carry disease and are best kept under control.</p> <p>The rats will, of course, draw in cats. (If doesn't matter if you get rid of all the cats on the paseo. Stray cats are all over the place in Puerto Rico.) But if Save a Gato is no longer in force (because you've removed all the cats that live there now), there will be no group to take care of sterilize this new group of cats that will be attracted by the rats.</p> <p>What will you do then?</p> <p>Please don't remove the cats from the paseo.</p>
921	<p>Dear sirs,</p> <p>It occurs to me there is a shortsighted answer on the table for the removal of the cats in San Juan. Please allow your constituents to decide what happens to them.</p> <p>Isn't it and hasn't it always been about them?</p> <p>Do the right thing.</p>
922	<p>Please PLEASE reconsider your ill-begotten plan to remove the beautiful natives of Viejo San Juan! These wonderful and helpful natives deserve to remain in place, undisturbed and unmolested by YET another US government alphabet agency with too little to do and too much time on its hands. The cats are beneficial even beyond the necessary, unique skill set they possess and the service they provide to us in keeping the rodents at bay! Please leave the cats alone!</p>
923	<p>The National Park Service has not shown a substantive reason for the removal of the &quot;cobblestone cats&quot; of Old San Juan, particularly in the Paseo del Morro. The locals love them. The tourists enjoy seeing them. And for 500 years the cats have provided effective, necessary rodent control.</p> <p>If the cats truly were a &quot;problem&quot; the best remediation would begin with the locals. If health outbreaks are a problem, trapping and inoculation is the solution. If overpopulation becomes a truly significant problem, spaying and neutering would be reasonable. Again, each of these should be addressed at the local level. Federal assistance should be a last resort and only at the request of the local population.</p> <p>Removal, and the inevitable euthanization that would follow, is unnecessary, unpopular and heartless.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
924	Please do not remove the cats of San Juan. They have been there longer than you have been alive, the people of San Juan love them, and if its an eco balance issue, consider that the current balance is functional for the residents there, and therefore should be their concern, rather than the concern of those that do not live there.
925	I'm for a more peaceful solution to the cat population. Catch and spay/neuter until the population is small enough to your liking. Cats live about 12 years. By 2032, your problem will be solved. And you won't have to take the life of an innocent cat.
926	Save the cats!!! To even suggest killing these innocent cats is horrendous & despicable! These poor creatures deserve to live their lives and will, in turn, control the rodent population preventing the spread of disease.
927	I am writing in support of the Cats of Old San Juan. The National Park Service exists to preserve and save the cultural, historic and natural institutions that define our country. The cats of San Juan are integral to the cultural and historic heritage of San Juan, and their presence needs to be maintained. Just as Hemingway's 6-toed cats and the free-range roosters define the cultural heritage of Key West, FL, so too do the cats of San Juan define the old city. In other old cities, such as Istanbul, Turkey and Dubrovnik, Croatia, the cats are an integral part of the experience of those cities, and the residents and visitors celebrate their presence, and this has been the case in Old San Juan as well. In addition, the cats serve an extremely important purpose to maintain a detente with the resident rat population, which is why they were established in the first place. Removing the cats will have unintended consequences that need to be carefully considered. I can't even understand why this is even being considered. I am reminded of Lakewood, NJ, which cut down all the beautiful old trees in its city park with the misguided intention of reducing the homeless population, only to destroy its cultural, historic and natural heritage in the process. And this cannot be restored overnight. Same with the cats. The existing cat population is integral to the fabric and balance of Old San Juan. The existing population needs to stay to keep the beneficial homeostasis that has existed for over 500 years. Thank you.
928	Please do not remove cats from Old San Juan. The cats kill mice and rats. Residents and visitors (tourism industry) do NOT want rats. Perhaps run a study regarding rats and mice and how well the cats work to catch them. In addition, residents and tourists like the cats. Cats are featured in guidebooks, postcards, and calendars. Thank you for your attention.
929	I have recently learned of a plan to consider the removal of the cats of the historical district of Old San Juan in Puerto Rico. One of the best things about certain magical spots I have traveled to over the years, is the local colour in the form of the animals that live there. For example, the cats that wander the streets of Istanbul, taken care of by locals, charming the tourists is one my favourite delights of that city. The same is true for the cats of Old San Juan. They keep the rodents population in check, and charm the humans. They should be cared for as a part of the character of the area and left to their own devices (maybe TNR to keep their numbers managed).
930	"As an American tourist, I love the free-range cats of San Juan and stand firmly against any discussion to euthanize or murder these felines. It is unethical, cost-ineffective, and would hurt Puerto Rico's tourist economy."

Corr ID	Correspondence
931	<p>Hello</p> <p>I have traveled to Puerto Rico several times and always enjoy stopping by to see the cats in Old San Juan that are cared for by Save A Gato. I hope you will consider allowing these cats to remain free while participating in a Trap-Neuter-Return program. Thank you.</p>
932	<p>"I love the free-range cats of San Juan and stand firmly against any discussion to euthanize or murder these felines. It is unethical, cost-ineffective, and would hurt Puerto Rico's tourist . The People love them I love to see this case everytime I go to san juan please let then live</p>
933	<p>It is only inhumane to eliminate the cats at Old San Juan. Having then there make us a civilized and organized country, like other parts of the world. They are not alone, Save a Gato and other volunteers maintain them.</p> <p>The cats do not represent a danger to no one.</p>
934	<p>As an American tourist, I love the free-range cats of San Juan and stand firmly against any discussion to euthanize or murder these felines. It is unethical, cost-ineffective, and would hurt Puerto Rico's tourist economy.</p>
935	<p>The current TNR program should be continued in the park. The goal of no cats in the park is not attainable, nor should it be a goal. A stable population should be the goal. Free range cats provide a valuable rodent killing service. They may have some impact on birds, but far less than what they have on mice/rats. Without the cats keeping rats in check, the areas where they formerly roamed will be overrun. One of the arguments against cats is the diseases they may harbor. That can easily be addressed during TNR. It should also be noted that the diseases cats may transmit to humans are far less in number and severity than the diseases rats may transmit. Not to mention, the public visiting the park by and large enjoys the presence of the cats, whereas the same could not be said for the rat population to come if the cats are removed.</p>
936	<p>Your so-called "free-ranging cat management plan" will not "improve the experience" – it will degrade it. Do you want cats or do you want rats?</p> <p>This is going to be the "kill the wolves of Yellowstone" debacle all over again. Does history not teach us anything?</p> <p>The people of San Juan love the cats – so do the tourists. Please - do not implement your &quot;cat management plan&quot;.</p>
937	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am concerned with your management plan and its abhorrent inability to not only convey quantifiable information, but also to adhere to NPS guidelines. Your assumptions that the felines of Paseo del Morro are 1) exotic, 2) not a part of the 'cultural landscape' itself and 3) inhibiting the cultural landscape, are not backed by quantifiable evidence or data whatsoever. The report jumps to the eradication plan without providing evidence to uphold your assumptions, and you have zero data to indicate that any of the necessary qualifications of section 4.4.2 are met in order to even begin to consider creating a management plan for the Paseo del Morro cats to be 'managed'.</p> <p>Your management plan states that "the park is required to preserve, protect, and interpret its cultural resources. The free-ranging cats and feeding stations are not consistent with the cultural landscape." Your Management Policies of 2006, section 5.3.5.2 states that "The treatment of a cultural landscape will preserve significant physical attributes, biotic systems, and uses when those uses contribute to historical significance."</p> <p>As indicated in the public comments that NPS reluctantly heard, these cats are of the utmost</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>historical significance to the natives, as well as attracting an abundant amount of tourists to the site.</p> <p>The biotic systems that these cats provide are such that it was necessary for them to be brought over to control the mice and rat population, which once you conduct a proper quantitative study, you will find that these biotic systems that the Paseo cats play an important role in remain necessary for the landscape and community.</p> <p>Regarding the Health and Safety portion of the Management Report, all claims are hypothetical, general and conditional statements. For example, "Cats can become infected with parasites, such as roundworm and hookworm, that can be passed to humans through accidental ingestion of contaminated soil or feces." Simply because cats can carry disease XYZ is not sufficient evidence to indicate that this specific colony of cats do, in fact, carry these diseases. Under the same logic, we should ensure that free-ranging humans in the park are also removed as humans can carry disease XYZ.</p> <p>Furthermore, you make the claim that Paseo cats are exotic species that need to be removed. Under 4.4.2;</p> <p>All exotic plant and animal species that are not maintained to meet an identified park purpose will be managed—up to and including eradication—if (1) control is prudent and feasible, and (2) the exotic species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · interferes with natural processes and the perpetuation of natural features, native species or natural habitats, or · disrupts the genetic integrity of native species, or · disrupts the accurate presentation of a cultural landscape, or · damages cultural resources, or · significantly hampers the management of park or adjacent lands, or · poses a public health hazard as advised by the U. S. Public Health Service (which includes the Centers for Disease Control and the NPS public health program), or · creates a hazard to public safety. <p>As of now, your 'management plan' consists wholly of a straw-man argument that utilizes hearsay arguments and generalized claims that attempt to lightly dance around finding quantifiable data to back any of these reasons for removal. You assume that these cats are exotic and that they are not a part of the cultural landscape itself. You provide no empirical evidence or data to satisfy any of the prongs that are required to move forward with the removal or eradication of an exotic species in accordance with NPS guidelines. It would benefit not only NPS, but the community as a whole if you could come up with actual evidence, that is not simply generalized claims regarding the feline species as a whole, and random anecdotes regarding alleged complaints from tourists.</p>
938	<p>To the National Park Service,</p> <p>As an academic and as a concerned citizen, I utterly oppose any action that would remove the cats of San Juan. They are an historic part of the "sense of place" of San Juan, and should be left as part of the unique heritage of the region. If numbers are a concern, there are humane and workable alternatives to removal, such as Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) that have proved effective in other areas of the country time and again. Groups such as "Ally Cat Allies" can provide direction and assistance, if needed. Please allow these beloved animals remain a part of the unique legacy of San Juan.</p> <p>Yours,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
939	<p>Hello, I am also the lucky Grandma who has the great privilege to visit beautiful Puerto Rico often to visit my Grandchildren and enjoy the beauty of your island. Every time I come, we always visit the kitties in Old San Juan and take food and play with them. It is an absolute favorite event! I was so sorry to hear of the possibility of removing the cats from their homes in the old city. The non-profit "Save A Gato" has delivered such a great service for the cats and has provided a very special atmosphere to the area. Our Granddaughters have loved visiting the cats often in their 5 years living in San Juan and now are learning such valuable lessons on giving back to the community through volunteering with "Save A Gato" weekly. I certainly hope that a positive solution will be made to save the cats in Old San Juan. Thank you,</p>
940	<p>Has there not been a trap, neuter, release program instituted? Why are the numbers of cats increasing?</p> <p>Any so-called reduction plan must include publicly available audit results verifying that the cats are not being euthanized. These audits shall be conducted by entities outside the National Park Service and outside any other government entity.</p>
941	<p>This proposed management plan is not needed, a waste of resources and somewhat vile. It does not "improve the experience" it degrades it. The cats of VSJ are much beloved and featured in guidebooks, calendars, photo collections, and the happy memories of millions of visitors. They protect the area, as they have always done, from the rat population.</p>
942	<p>Please, leave the cats of Old San Juan be. Honor the TNR agreement with Save a Gato. Those cats have lived there for years, nobody is bothered by them and are actually cared for by the community.</p>
943	<p>I much prefer cats as opposed to rats in San Juan. Go pick up litter or some other useful activity and quit trying to fix something that is not broken.</p>
944	<p>Re: Possible Plan To Remove/Eradicate Feral Cats from San Juan, Puerto Rico</p> <p>Removing cats from San Juan to get a handle on the outdoor cat population would be a misguided effort because multiple studies have proven that eradication is LESS EFFECTIVE and MORE COSTLY than spaying/neutering the cats and leaving them to live out their natural lives (a process known as trap-neuter-return, or TNR).</p> <p>TNR stops the breeding cycle of outdoor cats and causes their numbers to decrease naturally over time. Catching and killing cats is a temporary solution. Though it may result in fewer cats within a target area quickly, the feral cat population will unquestionably rebound. When cats are trapped and removed from an area, new cats quickly move in to fill the vacated territory and take advantage of the resources that had been sustaining the cats there before them and start the breeding process all over again. This phenomenon was discovered by British biologist Roger Tabor and is referred to as the "vacuum effect." In contrast, if a colony of cats is "neutered and returned to its area it will continue to hold the location and keep other cats out by its presence" (Tabor, 1995).</p> <p>Take as an example the 2015 study conducted by Lazenby et al. in the forests of Tasmania, Australia, where "low-level culling of feral cats" actually caused an increase in the number of cats in the area, despite the initial illusion that there was a decrease in population. Over the course of 13 months, researchers attempted to "simulate the resource-effort that typically might be available to and expended by natural resource managers," which entailed trapping cats and shooting them in the head (Lazenby et al., 2014). At the end of the study,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>researchers noted a significant increase in feral cat numbers with an average of 75 percent at one site and 211 percent at the other site. It was also noted that "cat numbers fell, and were comparable with those in the pre-culling period, when culling ceased" (Lazenby et al., 2014).</p> <p>Eradicating feral cats is a futile endeavor that comes with a hefty price tag — at the expense of the taxpayer — and requires decades of continual killing, often followed by further expenses to eradicate rats or other prey animals the cats had kept in check.</p> <p>References</p> <p>Lazenby, Billie T., et al. "Effects of Low-Level Culling of Feral Cats in Open Populations: A Case Study from the Forests of Southern Tasmania." <i>Wildlife Research</i>, vol. 41, no.5 2014, pp. 407-20.</p> <p>Tabor, Roger. <i>Understanding Cats</i>. Newton Abbot: David & Charles, 1995.</p>
945	Don't kill the cats. How exactly do you plan on controlling the rat population without the cats?
946	<p>As a tourist, I love the free-range cats of San Juan and stand firmly against any discussion to euthanize or murder these felines. It is unethical, cost-ineffective, and would hurt Puerto Rico's tourist economy.</p> <p>It is frankly disgusting and uncalled for and I hope that this plan is promptly abandoned.</p>
947	I am very concerned about what will happen to the cats once they are "removed". It is not clear if they will be euthanized or even killed on the spot. There are model in other countries like Japan, that can be followed and turn these cats in to an addition to the tourism attraction. Thank you
948	I urge you to save the cats of San Juan - one of the things that I enjoyed most about my 3 trips to the city was experiencing those cats and watching them have the opportunity to live basically "wild" lives. It is history. It is part of nature - keeping "pests" under control with a natural predator. The island state of Hawaii was able to find common ground with sterilization and groups that maintained the health of their feline population. I'm certain that you would be able to follow in their footsteps and not simply end the lives of countless animals simply because some human is "bothered". If those humans win out, I look forward to the stories of the rat and mouse issues that will plague and bother them next. After all, life has a way of fixing human errors.
949	If these cats are spayed, what is the issue - their health? Someone high up who doesn't like cats? Take them to a sanctuary (on the island or mainland).
950	I disagree with what I see the proposal to be, it looks shallow and without thought. When I am in Puerto Rico, which my family and I are there quite often, we like to visit the old forts and walk these paths, (as well as the jungle & beaches etc.). Even in the hot sun, we have never noticed any smell from the cats along the path, or anywhere around the park, (and I hate animal and flower smells), only up at the cat shelter have we smelled them, which I do not go into, but my wife and kids do if it is open to look at the cats. We rather enjoy roaming around both the park areas and while in that area, the cat shelter area with all the cats. The way I understand it is that cat shelter has the cats fixed and vaccinated, and gets what cats they can adopted out. Cats that cannot be adopted I understand are let back out. I would think at most, the park service should ask that shelter to remove the feeding stations from the pathway and surrounding park property, so the cats stay up by the shelter. I doubt it has ever

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>been witnessed rats feeding alongside cats, if so, you would have posted one of those photos, but most would believe that it was a photoshop image, since cats and rats or dogs and rats don't feed together. One dog crap along the path smells much worse than anything cats can do. That shelter works off donations, and has spend peoples donated money to have the cats fixed and vaccinated, has the park service made any significant contributions, monetarily or helping the shelter get the cats adopted out in any way? The wording in the brochure pints to if the park service removes the cats, they will be killed, (euthanized humanely), what a joke, again as people have donated their hard earned money to help the shelter deal with the cats. If the cat population has grown, then since the shelter has cats fixed, there must be people dumping their cats there, and that should be dealt with by having fines to those who dump their cats there. The park service might consider working with the humane society of Puerto Rico to sponsor monthly spay and neuter days which would lessen the illegal dumping of acts at the old forts. If killing the cats is the plan, which seems the obvious suggestion here, that is incredibly wrong as they are not causing any injuries to any humans. To call the cats invasive species after being brought there by the Spanish all those hundreds of years ago is too many years elapsed to still be calling them invasive. Those damn iguanas need to be dealt with more, they are recent invasive species and leave huge craps around the parks and city. Only stupid uneducated tourists think iguanas are fun to look at, (until they step in their dung). In conclusion, I know as a government institution, the American public will not be heard, and I am sure will listen even less to the Puerto Ricans, who I bet will not want you killing all the Spanish cats. If you do press forward with killing / removing the cats, I suggest you work with the Save a Gato shelter and have them trap and hand over the non-fixed and vaccinated cats that are not able to be adopted to show the park service cares about the money people has donated and the time the shelter volunteers have put into the cats. I can tell by reading the proposal, the park organization does not have individuals working there who can plan a good solution for all involved, but is simply going to contract out to a private company and say "trap and get rid of every cat you can", typical mindless planning by those who are not at all affected by any outcome of the proposed "issue". The next time I visit Puerto Rico after the proposed dates I am seeing here come to pass, I will first go to the path and surrounding areas, then the shelter, if all the cats were killed without the shelter participating in their selection and removal, I will never pay or allow my family to go to these forts or any National Park again, I am old enough I don't need to visit again, but I have always enjoyed doing repeat visits all across America.</p>
951	<p>As a life long visitor of San Juan, I love the free-range cats of San Juan and stand firmly against any discussion to euthanize or MURDER these felines. It is unethical, cost-ineffective, and would hurt Puerto Rico's tourist economy.</p>
952	<p>Your plan to remove (and possible kill) the cats in Viejo San Juan is unethical, immoral, and unnecessary. The cats are a deterrent to vermin such as rats; they are loved by both residents and tourists; and have been in the area for many more years than the National Park Service has existed. Listen to the people who care about the quality of life in that area, and abandon the technocratic plans that help no one and cause great harm.</p>
953	<p>I support the removal of all cats from all federal property by any means necessary. Cats kill billions of birds every year in the USA. Who is advocating for the billions of dead birds? https://abcbirds.org/program/cats-indoors/cats-and-birds/#:~:text=Predation by domestic cats is,of millions of outdoor cats.</p> <p>Even PETA recognizes that feral cats terrorize, maim and kill countless of native birds and small animals.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>https://www.peta.org/issues/animal-companion-issues/overpopulation/feral-cats/#:~:text=Feral cats live short, hard,common in cats left outdoors.</p> <p>When visiting Puerto Rico I am amazed by the almost total absence of birds (other than pigeons). Feral cats in Puerto Rico have effectively wiped out a huge number of indigenous birds species.</p> <p>Cats are a primary vector for Toxoplasmosis, which infects people, cats, rats, and marine mammals. Cat feces contaminates land and sea water with deadly organisms. https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/toxoplasmosis/toxoplasmosis_catowners.html https://www.marinemammalcenter.org/news/toxoplasmosis-poses-threat-for-sea-otters-like-yankee-doodle</p> <p>Enough is enough! Get rid of the cats. The overwhelming stench of cat feces and urine is overwhelming. The hordes of feral cats must go.</p> <p>If people want cats, they can keep them in their homes. They do not belong on federal property. Allowing feral cat feeding programs on federal property is a misuse of public property that must end now. No neuter and release; this just allows cats to keep killing wildlife. Remove the cats!</p>
954	<p>Cats are part of San Juan. Tourists come from different places to see them and take pictures. We should educate our people more to respect animal that are part of our culture and make us happy. Also save a gato is taking care of them. This petition to remove them is insane and show no empathy for living creatures.</p>
955	<p>Having recently traveled to Puerto Rico, and visited Old San Juan, I believe this may be an unnecessary utilization of NPS resources. From my perspective, while there were a number of cats throughout the neighborhood, they hardly constitute a nuisance or hazard. At no time did I feel that there were too many, nor was I ever threatened or bothered by their presence. In fact, they added significantly to the atmosphere of the surroundings, providing a welcoming presence through their docility and domestication.</p> <p>I'd also suggest that they most certainly provide significant benefit in the form of rodent and vermin eradication. It would be tragic if in trying to solve a perceived but non-existent problem, you were to create an actual problem that required further resources to resolve.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
956	<p>Those ignorant of history are doomed to repeat it. Solutions to environmental analyses and plans such as the "free ranging cat management plan" ALWAYS have unintended consequences, none of which are realized until after the fact. We are subject to fish "management" here in Naples Florida and the outcomes are equally absurd. There is no way, you can accurately determine either positive or negative outcomes from killing the cats of San Juan. How about you try "First, do no harm" and consort with the group that is currently spaying and neutering and do an analysis of the success/failure of that program.</p>
957	<p>I would like to express my full rejection to the plan that the NPS wants to try to put in action. I can vouch for the great work Save A Gato has done and the situation would be way worse if it wasn't for them. Please read on the "Vacuum Effect" if you remove the cats, unsprayed, and maybe sick cats will roam the colony and you will have a worse problem in</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>your hands. Not to mention to thought of killing 200 cats is unfathomable, it's a barbaric act. Also think of all time and money spent by volunteers, donations and the anxiety this is causing to us who love these cats. Save A Gato should be left alone, let them continue saving these cats.</p>
958	<p>Hello NPS,</p> <p>I vehemently oppose the poorly conceived notion of 'getting rid of the cats of San Juan'.</p> <p>Of course many cities have this seeming 'problem' including the city I live in, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. However more than 20 years ago Vancouver started a catch, neuter and release program against cats.</p> <p>Now as a result, there are NO semi-feral cats. EVERYONE keeps their cats indoors if they even have one because most buildings don't allow pets at all.</p> <p>Can you imagine what happened? First, the rats came, then the mice. Now even in the pet-friendly building I live in, we are plagued with mice (pooing and peeing) inside the building and they live where no cat can get at them. Rodent populations continue to explode despite the hideously ugly solution: large black plastic boxes filled with rat poison sitting around outside and even inside many buildings and surrounding many public places. The rabbit population on beaches has also exploded. There are no cats to weed out the sick and weak.</p> <p>There has been such a massive loss in the cat population that it's become hard to find a cat to adopt. It's become very costly to adopt a cat and there are no 'free' cats. The cost of ordinary brown tabbies can be \$500 (with some fancy fake breed name) and the price of pure bred cats can be \$1000-3500+.</p> <p>In Bangkok there is a park called the green lung of Bangkok, Lumpini. There had always been a thriving population of cats there until the park started using toxins to control growth, then mice disappeared and the cats had nothing to eat, so for many decades, volunteers have brought food in to them which is against the park rules so they have to sneak it in. Suddenly the city decided there were too many cats so cats were euthanized or adopted out into the community and guess what happened? Explosion of mouse population.</p> <p>Are any of these results what you want for your city?</p> <p>Please reconsider your plans for the cats of San Juan and do not get rid of them. It's much better to have a volunteer program to protect them as is now the case for the only two known remaining cat colonies of Vancouver - which are now miles away in the suburbs.</p>
959	<p>No, no, tell me it ain't so - that you plan to cur-tail old San Juan's "colonial" cat population.</p> <p>Apart from feline charm, those cats earn their keep by managing the rodent population. Up here in Massachusetts our wildlife rehabilitators work valiantly to save foxes, hawks, every kind of creature due to rat poison.</p> <p>Please spay and neuter vs. dispatch the "colonial" cats of San Juan.</p>
960	<p>Hola,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>A pesar de que puede haber personas que le moleste, de las veces que he visitado el Paseo nunca he tenido una mala experiencia con los gatos, demás esta decir que uno hasta disfruta verlos.</p> <p>Me parece que la mejor manera de atender la situacion es:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Con una campaña de educación para los residentes y no residentes del casco de San Juan 2. Mas vigilancia para que personas ajenas a San Juan no vengam a dejar gatos en el Paseo. 3. Mas apoyo para las entidades que atienden los gatos, Save a Gato, sobretodo del parte del municipio. 4. Promover la ayuda y ser voluntarios entre la ciudadanía para que se unan de voluntarios a las entidades que atienden los gatos. 4. Mas fondos para atender el asunto... <p>Las entidades pueden hacer su trabajo y atrapar, esterilizar y marcar a los gatos pero mientras haya personas ajenas dejando gatos la poblacion nunca va a disminuir. Pueden erradicar a todos los gatos en una noche y no tardara mas de semana que alguien dej gatos en el lugar.</p> <p>Me parece que la situacion no la crean los gatos, la crean los humanos, por que tenemos que eutanizar los gatos si ellos actuan como lo que son, animales.</p> <p>Resumen: APOYO EDUCACION FONDOS...</p>
961	<p>This comment is in opposition to the proposal to develop a management plan to address free-ranging cats on the Paseo del Morro. The opposition is based upon the following observations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NPS has not given credible justification for the assertion that the cats pose a problem. The vague generalities offered lack substance in the form of concrete data to show that the cats present any of the negative impacts asserted. 2. The "No Action" plan is in fact an action. In addition to opposing the development of a plan for removal, we oppose the apparent current plan of action to neuter and stop feeding the cats. This is effectively a plan to kill off all the cats, which have been part of the culture and ecosystem of the area for a long, long time. This plan to eliminate the population must end. 3. NPS has failed to seriously consider the negative impacts of their plans. The cats serve a useful purpose in the ecosystem. Rather than being a nuisance or health risk to humans, they serve to keep dangerous rodent populations in check. This natural, environmentally safe form of pest mitigation is effective and much safer than the alternatives. This plan will create serious problems. 4. NPS has not established a factual case that action of any kind, including the current elimination by sterilization, is justified. 5. The NPS has failed to provide a complete fiscal analysis identifying the costs of this plan, or sources of funding. 6. NPS has not justified expenditures
962	<p>if these fine felines are extinguished, you are going to not only lose the joy and cultural heritage of it, but you are going to get a rodent romper room the likes of which you cannot believe.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
963	<p>Please do not remove the cats from Viejo San Juan, they're all taken care of by the local community and non-profit organizations to get them sterilized, vaccinated and provide them with food. Not only that, both locals and tourists like the cats, and they don't bother anyone. Instead, you should provide assistance to these communities so that the cats get the care they need and can gradually bring down the population.</p>
964	<p>1. ¿Qué quieren? Que los gatos de Paseo del Morro lleguen a cero a través de la remoción.</p> <p>2. ¿Porqué no va a funcionar? Al remover los gatos de Paseo del Morro lo deja abierto a que ocurra un fenómeno llamado "Efecto del vacío". Esto quiere decir, al remover una colonia controlada, las condiciones quedan ideales para que se establezca otra colonia. Es decir, si hoy se llevan 50 gatos de este lugar. En un tiempo habrán 50 nuevos, y si estos no están esterilizados, sabemos que fácil se convierten en 200. El paseo es abierto, no hay nada que prevenga que lleguen nuevos gatos. Hay gatos en colonias colindantes que pueden migrar. ¿Entonces que harán? ¿Continuar exterminando gatos todos los días de por vida? El plan es cruel y no es productivo.</p> <p>3. ¿Qué hacer entonces? Apoyar los programas de TNR de Save A Gato. Al una colonia estar esterilizada, controla la integración de nuevos miembros, por lo que el número disminuye con el tiempo. La colonia en esta área a subido de número por el abandono, no por la reproducción. Por ende, se debe enfatizar acciones y educación en contra al abandono y a favor del TNR.</p> <p>4. ¿Qué yo personalmente sugeriría? Que NPS se encargue de integrar un programa educativo respecto a los gatos de Paseo del Morro, que forme parte de sus flyers, letreros y charlas turísticas. Que se anime a tener un carácter de respeto hacia los gatos que forman parte de la historia y cultura del Viejo San Juan. Que se tomen medidas de seguridad como cámaras y guardias para prevenir y castigar el abandono. Que NPS se una a los esfuerzos de los voluntarios de Save a Gato para mantener la limpieza de las áreas varias veces al día y a los esfuerzos de TNR para lograr controlar la colonia con más rapidez.</p> <p>5. Sugerencias adicionales: -Mover los comederos a áreas más privadas, pero no peligrosas, dentro del paseo. Y alimentar en horas de poca actividad en el paseo pero bajo condiciones seguras a quien alimente. -Crear un área de atractivo para gatos dentro del paseo para que estos busquen albergarse en estas áreas y reduzcan el tránsito libre por el paseo. -Colocar areneros discretos en el paseo. Por ejemplo hay areneros que simulan tiestos, etc. -Crear un plan de limpieza diario en el paseo. Utilizar productos que descompongan la orina y heces y aromaticen. Hacer recogido de desperdicios con poop bags y palas. Se pueden hacer actividades de servicio comunitario respecto a esto. -Colocar guardia de seguridad que de rondas preventivas y camaras para evitar abandono en esta area. -Colocar carteles informativos y de advertencia. Los carteles deben decir la historia de la colonia y importancia cultural. Los esfuerzos para controlarla. Como ayudar siendo voluntario o donando. Debe advertir la consecuencia del abandono y como sera castigado. Además debe informar a los turistas a ejercer respeto y cuidado con los gatos para evitar que inciten ataques de los gatos en forma de defensa. Adicional, debe informar a los turistas a no ofrecer comida ya que tienen su rutina.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
965	<p>No hay la necesidad de sacar los gatitos de viejo San Juan ya que ellos nos dan calidad para cazar y disminuir la cantidad de roedores como ratas y son atractivos turísticos las personas vamos a visitarlos además de que están vacunados y esterilizados en la ciudad de San Juan la gran mayoría de los ciudadanos, los queremos y los protegemos son Animales dóciles y no le hacen daño a nadie si el problema es por la escreta u orines se les puede coordinar algún área escogida por el gobierno en el viejo San Juan para ellos pero porfavor no se los lleven no los eutanizen déjenlos ser felices son seres como nosotros que sienten y este mundo tambn les pertenece.</p> <p>Gracias</p>
966	<p>Abogamos por que determinen ayudar a los gatos y los mismos no sean removidos de lo que hasta ahora ha sido su hogar. Permitan que estos sigan siendo guardianes de la ciudad amurallada.</p>
967	<p>Por mas de tres años fui voluntaria de Save a Gato en el Paseo y soy testigo de la alegría que ellos brindan al area. Nadie tiene derecho a asesinar ni exterminar gatos o otros animales. Me opongo totalmente a este &quot;Plan&quot; diabolico.</p>
968	<p>Los gatos son parte de la Historia del Viejo San Juan. Deben esterilizados y brindarles así calidad de vida. Yo soy amante de los gatos y ayudo a los gatitos de la calle a través de una rescatista</p>
969	<p>Save a Gato and their cats are a staple in old san juan. Apart from rescuing, fostering and TNR, they take care of all the "colonial cats" of old san juan. Which are said to be descendants of the cats that arrived with the spaniards to the island in the late 15th century. My favorite part of visiting old san juan is getting to see all the cats and im sure im not the only one that looks forward to seeing them each time we go to old sj. Please do not remove them.</p>
970	<p>Lo que intentan hacer sácando los gatos del paseo en VSJ me parece que es inhumano, antiético y hasta ilegal. Además, si logran sacarlos, otra población de gatos volverá a poblar el área. En otros países, sobretodo en Europa, los gatos comunitarios son una atracción turística tremenda. ¿Por qué, en vez de quedar en ridículo ante los ojos del mundo, pueden demostrar que hay formas de manejar este asunto de forma exitosa?</p>
971	<p>Apoyo a la vida libre de Los Gatos del Viejo San Juan. A la no matanza y/o eliminación de ellos, son seres vivos, merecen vivir y ser libres en su colonia.</p>
972	<p>NO, NO, NO, !!!!! NO ESTOY DE ACUERDO QUE SAQUEN A LOS GATOS DEL ÁREA, ESO ES UN CRIMEN DESPUÉS QUE ESOS GATOS HAN SIDO ESTERILIZADOS Y VACUNADOS PARA QUE PUDIERAN VIVIR EN ESA ÁREA LIBRES. SERIA INJUSTO PARA ELLOS QUE NO TIENEN VOZ DE QUEJARSE QUE HAGAN TAL MASACRE HACIA ESOS ANIMALES. SI NO PUEDEN DEJARLOS AHÍ HAGA-LEN UN SANTUARIO Y BUSQUE PERSONAL, VOLUNTARIO O PAGANDO QUE LOS PUEDAN ATENDER.</p>
973	<p>Es una idea fatal y cruel la cual estoy en contra , que quieran remover gatos que llevan muchos años controlando las verdaderas plagas de SJ que son las ratas 🐭, esos gatos están esterilizados y vacunados, cuidados por Save a Gato y la comunidad no solo de SJ. Ayuden a promover la esterilización bajo costo o gratuita para controlar a nivel del país la sobrepoblación de perros , gatos y cerdos vietnamitas. Muchos ponemos de nuestro bolsillo para donar , rescatar y esterilizar cuando apenas ganamos bien para ayudar a los que no tienen voz, pero es un acto de amor.</p> <p>Los gatos merecen vivir y ser protegidos!!!!</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
974	I don't think that is the solution of the problem if it can put some in adoption or make like a special day to pick and take any cat that they won't or can look for information about this problem in other countries and see how they solve the problem. BUT NEVER KILL ANY CATS BECAUSE THAT WILL BE A REAR PROBLEM.
975	I have been visiting the cats of old San Juan for a little over 10 years now. I have never found the cats to be a disturbance or nuisance. Cats have been a part of San Juan as long as there has been a San Juan. While you can consider them an invasive species cats also limit the numbers of other disease carrying invasive species like rats and mice. Which are by far worse pests for human safety and wellness. The disease carrying impact of cats can and has been effectively mitigated by vaccination by Save a gato. TNR is the only way of limiting cat populations. Merely removing cats from an area only causes more cats from surrounding areas to move in to fill the void. Instead of trying to reinvent the wheel please support Save a Gato with more resources to improve the lives of people and cats.
976	In relation to the kittens that are near the hill, I have to mention that it is an area that I have to visit every time I go to San Juan. They have been there for many years, they are well cared for and they do not harm anyone. It makes no sense that they want to remove them, on the contrary, they should protect them and allow them to remain in that place that is already their "habitat". I would be grateful if you would reconsider your plans on this matter. Thank you
977	The majority of these cats are neutered and cared for. From almost 500 now its down to about 100. If you get rid of these, others will move there and we then will proceed the same process. Then what. The problem is all over the island and this is a cruel way to deal with the problem. Many people who took their time, effort and resources to deal with this problem will also suffer. Please look for a more emphatic way to deal with this situation.
978	The majority of these cats are neutered and cared for. From almost 500 now its down to about 100. If you get rid of these, others will move there and we then will proceed the same process. Then what. The problem is all over the island and this is a cruel way to deal with the problem. Many people who took their time, effort and resources to deal with this problem will also suffer. Please look for a more emphatic way to deal with this situation.
979	<p>Remover gatos ya esterilizados y que cuidan de ellos no va a resolver nada si lo que quieren es que no hayan gatos en el área. Lamentablemente por más que los saquen siempre van a llegar más y sin esterilizar a ocupar el espacio. Al remover los gatos de Paseo del Morro lo deja abierto a que ocurra un fenómeno llamado "Efecto del vacío". Esto quiere decir, al remover una colonia controlada, las condiciones quedan ideales para que se establezca otra colonia. Es decir, si hoy se llevan 50 gatos de este lugar. En un tiempo habrán 50 nuevos, y si estos no están esterilizados, sabemos que fácil se convierten en 200. El paseo es abierto, no hay nada que prevenga que lleguen nuevos gatos. Hay gatos en colonias colindantes que pueden migrar. ¿Entonces que harán? ¿Continuar exterminando gatos todos los días de por vida? El plan es cruel y no es productivo.</p> <p>En vez de remover gatos para matarlos, porque se conoce que en Puerto Rico hay una sobrepoblación y en ningún lugar se van a sacrificar por cuidar de tantos gatos y la "remoción" significa muerte para ellos. Se debe apoyar los programas de TNR de Save A Gato y de otras organizaciones como Emma Feline Foundation. Al una colonia estar esterilizada, controla la integración de nuevos miembros, por lo que el número disminuye con el tiempo. La colonia en esta área a subido de número por el abandono de las personas irresponsables, no por la reproducción. Por ende, se debe enforzar acciones y educación en</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>contra al abandono y a favor del TNR.</p> <p>Una sugerencia es que NPS se encargue de integrar un programa educativo respecto a los gatos de Paseo del Morro, que forme parte de sus flyers, letreros y charlas turísticas. Que se anime a tener un carácter de respeto hacia los gatos que forman parte de la historia y cultura del Viejo San Juan. Que se tomen medidas de seguridad como cámaras y guardias para prevenir y castigar el abandono. Que NPS se una a los esfuerzos de los voluntarios de Save a Gato para mantener la limpieza de las áreas varias veces al día y a los esfuerzos de TNR para lograr controlar la colonia con más rapidez.</p>
980	<p>La remocion De los gatos De SJUs por motivos caprichosos por parte De agencies De Gobierno denot una ignorancia crasa, pues Es a accion descabellada va a desatar una anomalia ecologica en es a area. Pandemia d ratas, basura y otros excrementos que atentaran contra la salubridad del viejo san juan. Que hay detras d toda esta absurda peticion? Despues Del tantos años Ahora molestan los pobres animalitos? Me opongo energicamente. Hay prioridades apremiantes para atender q incluyendo humanos. Porque' Tanta aversion con los gatos? Dejenlos en paz!!! Hagan otras propuestas mas inteligentes. Que valga la pena. Que nos distinga como boricuas. Esto denigrates como pueblo, como nacion. Si los gatitos pagaran taxes, los dejaban tranquilos. Give me a break! No Go .</p>
981	<p>Dont remove the cats they do no Hurt no body</p>
982	<p>I am writing to express my deep concern about the possible removal of community cats from Old San Juan.</p> <p>Community cats, also known as feral cats, are unowned cats who live happy and healthy lives outdoors. Contrary to popular belief, they are the same species as pet cats and pose no threat if left alone. This community of cats is well cared for by the people of Old San Juan and Save a Gato (SAG); a non-profit organization dedicated to the welfare of these cats through TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return), fostering, and adoption. Save A Gato has cared for and managed the colony of cats on the Paseo del Morro and the rest of Old San Juan for years with distinction and success.</p> <p>TNR is the only humane and effective approach to community cats. Since most community cats are not socialized around humans, the outdoors is the only proper home for them. During the process of TNR, community cats are humanely trapped and taken to a veterinarian to be spayed/neutered, vaccinated and ear tipped for identification. After recovering, they are returned to their outdoor home in Old San Juan.</p> <p>These cats have been part of the community for decades. In addition to their communal value, they are also a significant tourist attraction. Take for example the country of Turkey: Turks are famous for their love of animals and a rich culture of caring for their community cats in particular. Photos and videos of these cats playing and relaxing in their outdoor homes spread like wildfire on social media and have become both a tourist attraction and a sign of the brilliant love and humanity that Turkish culture fosters. Likewise, community cats are known locally to enjoy a very comfortable life in Puerto Rico, and this is something that we should amplify and share with the world.</p>
983	<p>Saludos,</p> <p>Estoy tan disgustada con este plan de remoción de los gatitos.</p> <p>Ellos traen alegría para muchos de nosotros. Son seres que como nosotros los humanos merecen vivir, no entiendo como los que propusieron este plan, creen tener voz y voto para decidir quien vive y quien no, a quien se le quita la vida y a quien no. No ven mas alla, como a muchas personas y niños les alegra ver a esos gatitos cuando están de paseo por San Juan,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>es inevitable ir a San Juan y no pasar a verlos. Creo que en vez de hacer esa "REMOCIÓN" deberian buscar otras alternativas como dar la mano para ayudar a todas esas entidades sin fines de lucros que día a día salen a salvar vidas y ayudar a que cada uno de esos gatitos puedan recibir cuidado medico, alimento, amor y así esos seres puedan tener un hogar. Save a Gato lleva toda una vida dando la milla extra por ellos, así como muchas entidades alrededor de Puerto Rico para que quieran así por que si crear un "plan de remoción". Los seres humanos creen ser superiores a la vida animal y estan bien equivocados.</p>
984	<p>As a visitor, the cats add interest and charm to this historic area. They also help keep rodent populations down which is a great asset. There is only benefit to allowing them to stay.</p>
985	<p>My heavens!! The NPS proposes to remove cats - the natural enemies of rats and other rodents - from Old San Juan!?! I can't believe it! My tax dollars should not be used to destroy a living breathing cultural icon!! What can be more "green" than a non- toxic (except for vermin) pesticide ?? I protest in the strongest possible terms!! This must not be done!! These cats must live!! #nohantavirusforosj!! Keep the cats!!</p>
986	<p>No le veo sentido el matarlos., los gatitos quieren e intentan tener una vida para que ustedes la arebaten, esos gatitos nos aman solo que por como tratamiento algunos de su a sus familiares amigos etc,nos tienen miedo queremos un mejor mundo no uno sin gatos quiero aser esto por su vida,no encuentro un razonamiento para aserle eso oremos porque cambian de elección, ojalá y llege alas firmas esos gatos no me recen eso</p>
987	<p>I lived in San Juan, PR for 43 of my 46 years and loved strolling through Old San Juan's streets. It was one of my favorite things to do. I never thought that the cat situation was out of control or a health or safety hazard. The organizations that care for them are diligent and responsible for keeping the population under control as much as possible, something the local government has done nothing about on the island. Rescue organizations are left stranded when local authorities ignore the big problem the island has with stray dogs and cats. So now, when organizations have a bit under control, at least one sector of San Juan, now you guys want to come and "take care" of it by killing all these cats that pose no threat to the city? Why don't you start a government-funded rescue program and deal with the situation accordingly and not leave it all to small, individual rescue organizations? By killing all these cats you cancel all those years of hard work of these organizations that have been acting ALONE and have wasted all the time and money people like me have donated to help them. I stand AGAINST the killing of the Old San Juan cats. Use your platform, money, and power to help these organizations deal with this problem accordingly, by doing TNR and rescue missions. There are organizations doing it already without government assistance. What you want to do is NOT the best way to deal with the situation. Educate the people, hold the local authorities accountable, and establish more programs to deal with this issue. That's the way to do it, not by killing innocent, healthy, well-taken care of animals. Be better!</p>
988	<p>Al remover los gatos de Paseo del Morro lo deja abierto a que ocurra un fenómeno llamado "Efecto del vacío". Esto quiere decir, al remover una colonia controlada, las condiciones quedan ideales para que se establezca otra colonia. Es decir, si hoy se llevan 50 gatos de este lugar. En un tiempo habrán 50 nuevos, y si estos no están esterilizados, sabemos que fácil se convierten en 200. El paseo es abierto, no hay nada que prevenga que lleguen nuevos gatos. Hay gatos en colonias colindantes que pueden migrar. ¿Entonces que harán? ¿Continuar exterminando gatos todos los días de por vida? El plan es cruel y no es productivo.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Apoyar los programas de TNR de Save A Gato. Al una colonia estar esterilizada, controla la integración de nuevos miembros, por lo que el número disminuye con el tiempo. La colonia en esta área a subido de número por el abandono, no por la reproducción. Por ende, se debe enforzar acciones y educación en contra al abandono y a favor del TNR.</p> <p>Que NPS se encargue de integrar un programa educativo respecto a los gatos de Paseo del Morro, que forme parte de sus flyers, letreros y charlas turísticas. Que se anime a tener un carácter de respeto hacia los gatos que forman parte de la historia y cultura del Viejo San Juan. Que se tomen medidas de seguridad como cámaras y guardias para prevenir y castigar el abandono. Que NPS se una a los esfuerzos de los voluntarios de Save a Gato para mantener la limpieza de las áreas varias veces al día y a los esfuerzos de TNR para lograr controlar la colonia con más rapidez.</p>
989	<p>It's awful, horrible and inhumane what they intend to do with the Cat Colony in Viejo San Juan (Old San Juan). There is no good reason to support the intention to kill the cats. Not only are cats are cared by Save a Gato, they are picked up, sterilized and released to avoid overpopulation. Also they prepared them for adoption. All with the love of volunteers and funding by people like me who really care about animals. It is inhumane, heartbreaking and a shame that this entity lends itself to this without having ANY idea of how this cat colony is managed. It is also a SHAME to see how little they know about pest control that these kittens give to a city that is 500 years old. Cities like Rome, Istanbul and many more take care of and are praised for the care they give their cats for these same reasons. Just look at the rat problem that exists in cities like New York, Boston and many more. Not to mention that thousands of people/ tourists travel specifically to see them. Cats are wonderful animals, full of love, with an enormous capacity to love, they are therapy. If you really want to help and are so concerned about this DONATE to Save a Gato and help them with the amazing work they do day by day. Also, it would be nice that the laws are enforced and that people who abandon animals are punished. Puerto Rico has a SERIOUS problem with stray dogs all over the country THAT is problem and guess what they are also in "National Park" premises like: El Yunque and many beaches. THIS is not going to happen, there is a entire country willing to defend those who do not have a voice. You are abusers, heartless.</p>
990	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>As to the stray cats on and around El Morro, they provide a valuable service by keeping the lizard and rodent population under control, for that area. The cats should not be a burden as they live off the critters in the area. As someone who lives in Puerto Rico, those type critters can easily get out of control, if they're not being addressed.</p> <p>Plus anytime I've visited El Morro, some of the cats are friendly and tourists normally enjoy being around them & at time even take pictures with them. So in way, they're also unwitting ambassadors for the island.</p> <p>But I do understand how the cat population could get out of control and why the National Park Service may be having issues with this significant problem. So I'd recommend a two part plan -</p> <p>(1) They designate several cats as El Morro house cats (probably the ones they recognize as proficient in keeping the critter population down), put collars on 'em (so they're identifiable) & designate funds to get them all of them neutered/ fixed.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>And then for the cats which are not &quot;collared&quot; house cats (2) they designate & work with a cat rescue group that will work with online message boards, (FB, etc) to get those cats new homes. I know not all of them will get homes but hopefully a good portion will.</p> <p>I took the time to type all of this down so I hope the parties that receive this, will take the time to read thru it and give it some consideration - thank you.</p>
991	<p>Como residente de Puerta de Tierra, considerando no solo la ubicación sino el bienestar de los gatos del Viejo San Juan deseo y abogo porque los gatos permanezcan en el espacio donde estan actualmente.</p> <p>Es bien sabido que por la ubicacion de los puertos y recibimiento de os barcos y buques en nuestros puertos en San Juan, las plagas y ratas son parte de la llegada de estos. El tener gatos en la zona por muchos muchos muchos años ha servido a que la parte salubre para los residentes sea mas optima porque evita que tengamos ratas por doquier. Adicional que ayudan con las cucarachas que siempre han estado a montones en el Viejo San Juan y Puerta de Tierra.</p> <p>Pido por favor que esto se tome en consideracion, porque los gatos son de gran ayuda a controlar estas plagas. Donde hay gato no suelen haber cucarachas y plagas porque ellos ayudan al comerselos o cazarlos como parte de su naturaleza. Ademas que son un atractivo turistico.</p> <p>Los invito a mejor tomar plan de accion para esteriiizar a los gatos que no lo esten y que entre los mismos residentes de san juan con ayuda del municipio, ayude a mantener a los gatos alimentados, en colaboracion con organizaciones de rescate como save a gato, quienes por años han dado la cara por estos felinos.</p> <p>De igual manera que el municipio haga campaña masia de vacunacion y esterilziacion por estos gatosy se instalen caamras en el area para poder evitar que personas irresponsables y sin escrupulos continuen abandonado mas gatos alli y solo se mantengan los que actualmente estan.</p> <p>Adicional a que NO queremos que estos gatos sean abandonados en otra parte de la isla pues ellos ya estan acoplados a ese ambiente y abandonarlos de un lado a otro NO es una opcion y mucho menos una solucion.</p> <p>Por favor, dejemos los gatos. Yo como residente y vecina del Viejo San Juan abogo por que estos permanezcan alli.</p>
992	<p>I really hope that programs that have shown great success throughout the United States, such as TNR, are seriously considered, as this is the best opportunity we have to reduce the cat population in a humane manner. Save a Gato has done a great job caring for these cats and it would be wonderful if they could count with the support of the government in this. What should not be considered is simply rounding these living creatures up and killing them. That is cruel and will not solve the root issue which should be the priority of any jurisdiction with a pet overpopulation problem.</p>
993	<p>No me puedo creer que esten usando de excusa un lugar histórico de mi isla para asesinar esos animalitos que en su mayoría están muy bien cuidados. Adicional de que están allí por</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	culpa de los propios humanos que no toman conciencia en operar y no abandonar sus mascotas. Siempre hemos estado atrás en todo, cuanto turismo no trae a diferentes lugares el ser animal loversy aquí los quieren asesinar. Vea ejemplos en Japón Turquía Grecia California y muchos más que a través de el reconocimiento de lugares con animalitos trae turismo. Adicional a la exterminacion de plagas en vez de sacar y matar a los gatos. Saquen mejor a los usuarios de drogas y la comunidad de la perla. Ignorantes
994	No a ese proyecto por favor. Esos gatos son un atractivo turístico. No han visitado a Roma? Pues s deben. Ellos son unas criaturas que aportan q ayudan con el saneamiento de roedores por eso deben existir ahí. Son vida, son domésticos. Son hermosos. Son espirituales y healers también. Hacen mucho más q los políticos, y que muchos seres humanos que no aportan. Ellos sí aportan al mundo y la humanidad.
995	<p>It has been brought to my attention that there is plan to "remove" the historical cat colonies from the paseo de morro in historic San Juan. What exactly is the planned outcome? These cats have been living in this area well before the national park service was established. Their historical significance is incredible and vastly outweighs the inflated notion that they cause negative environmental impact. No more impact than the truck loads of trash left behind by visitors daily. Maybe focus our resources and tax dollars on a proper infrastructure plan to manage the human impact. The cats exist just as naturally as any wildlife. Unfortunately they are a byproduct of human negligence in domestication, which, (in my humble opinion) makes this situation all the more disturbing. These are innocent animals that didn't ask to be abandoned or born along the paseo. People come to paseo simply to visit their feline friends. I took some time a few years back to volunteer with save a gato along paseo. The way the passersby faces would light up as they saw the colonies come out from their hiding places when our golf carts pulled up... They ARE the attraction to many visitors. Are there also talks about removing the invasive iguanas? Do we really think that eradicating, or "removing" or any other loose term we can throw around is the solution? Will we just keep euthanizing cats as they are dumped off along the paseo for an eternity? These cats deserve the dignity to live out their years in peace. I think I speak for the community by asking who exactly thought this was a good idea? There was a real human an individual who proposed this and actually thought this would fix the problem? There will constantly be discarded cats along paseo. This will never end. I understand and agree with the importance of keep the population under control along paseo. This is not the solution. This is not where I would like to see our money spent. This is cruel and inhumane. Please allow save a gato, a privately funded non profit, continue their trap neuter return program. Let them maintain the population along paseo as they've been doing for nearly 20 years.</p> <p>I appreciate your consideration and hope this doesn't fall upon deaf ears.</p> <p>Please leave the cats alone</p> <p>Thank you</p>
996	Cats are a natural pest control because they eliminate rats and mice, reducing the risk of rabies infection to other animals and humans. Therefore, I 100% support the work carried out by the Save a Cat organization with the feline colony in Old San Juan.
997	I oppose the proposed removal of cats from Paseo La Princesa. Those cats are being responsibly taken care of by the Save a Gato organization. Over the years the cat population has diminished due to their TNR program. The cats are a natural pest management resource, as they kill rodents and keep their populations under control. No benefit will be obtained by the removal of cats and much prejudice may come from it. Cats have been living in and have been part of the Old San Juan environment for centuries. There is no evidence they cause any harm, mainly when there is an organization that cares for them responsibly.

Corr ID	Correspondence
998	<p>I am strongly against the removal of the feral cats at El Morro and adjacent areas designated as the San Juan National Historical Site (SJNHS). Although an invasive species, they have already made the SJNHS their home as they are being cared by Save a Gato.</p> <p>I read the public scoping newsletter and it has only subjective reasons as to why the cats must be removed. Let us ask first:</p> <p>(1) have the cats become an economical burden for the Park Service? (2) have the cats become a liability in any shape or form for the Park Service? (3) have the cats become an immediate risk for the safety of visitors or the preservation of the historic premises?</p> <p>I don't think so. They might be smelly and probably some of them could be sick, as in any other large population of cats.</p> <p>I believe there are other alternatives that could be undertaken before euthanizing the animals. Lets:</p> <p>(1) expand the MOU with Save a Gato and support them economically, so they can expand their offering to the cat population. (2) launch a media campaign to prevent people to abandon cats in the SJNHS premises (3) Foster community engagement with the administration of the cat colony.</p> <p>Those are only a handful of alternatives to consider --- I'm sure there are more... before doing a cat cleanup.</p> <p>Best,</p>
999	<p>I truly hope that Trap-Neuter-Return is chosen as the management method for these cats; it's the humane thing to do. Extermination would be unethical, sadistic, and simply ineffectual. I lived in Puerto Rico and I know the problem with abandoned pets will continue until the local government imposes stricter laws on ownership and spaying/neutering. Education and management over extermination.</p>
1000	<p>No, don't dare kill these cats, you have no right to destroy there lives. I support and agree with Save a Gato. If the effort done by this organization is working be a support.</p>
1001	<p>The Paseo del Morro cats have been well cared for</p>
1002	<p>The Paseo del Morro cats have been well cared for by the Save a Gato volunteers for years. They are fed and the colony is maintained through TNR. Simply stating they will be humanely removed is absolutely unacceptable. The NPS has called these cats feral, so the NPS won't try to rehabilitate them, find them homes, or place them in a another location. They will be euthanized simply for living, and that's disgusting. They didn't choose to be dumped, and Save a Gato works hard to make sure the colony doesn't expand. These sweet kitties bring smiles to the faces of those who visit, and deserve to live peacefully just as any human and animal deserves.</p>
1003	<p>Free cats El Morro, San Juan Puerto Rico</p>
1004	<p>Dejen a los gatos en paz viviendo en San Juan. No le hacen daño a nadie. No le cuesta nada al gobierno. Tantas cosas importantes en que concentrarse y quieren concentrarse en matar animales indefensos.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1005	Those cats are as iconic as the 501 year old fortifications that they live in. We can save these little guys, have some heart.
1006	I first discovered San Juan when it was a stop on a cruise. I didn't know much about it. We spent the day discovering and found the beautiful ocean path outside Castillo San Felipe del Morro. The cat colony that lives there was a major bonus! And then realizing how treasured and well cared for the San Juan kitties are warmed my soul! We have now visited many times and it is a favorite place of mine to visit. I've donated to the kitties care. I've photographed them. Please allow these sweet creatures to continue living in their home.
1007	We were luckily to visit old San Juan earlier this year and we immediately fell in love with the cat population. It was so much fun to interact with the cats and discuss their lifestyle with our tour guide and other residents of the city. We love following their progress from afar and we hope they'll be living in their current home during our next visit!
1008	Plese don't remove the cats. Instead help fund the TNR efforts.
1009	Hi! I support saveagato foundation in Old San Juan. Thanks to their time and careness, they have help control the population of cats in Old San Juan. I have adopted a few cats from their foundation and I know many other that have adopted from them as well. Im not in favor of exterminating these poor animals. SaveaGato have maintain true to their cause and work hard to make these cats feel loved. Tourists love seeing the cats roam Old San Juan and locals cherish their presence as well. What SaveaGato really needs is more support to their cause. They mostly work by donations and adoption fees. Most of their workers are volunteers and still wake up super early in the morning to see their vision grow and prosper.
1010	The Old San Juan cat community should be treated with respect. A reduction plan should be made, as Save a Cat does but with the vigilance of the park service, so that they do not continue to leave abandoned cats. By no means should you catch and kill this community of cats.
1011	Hay que fomentar la protección, el cuidado y el respeto hacia la vida y hacia los más vulnerables. Separar fondos del gobierno para la protección de estos animales que son necesarios para nuestro eco sistema. Poner todos un poco de nuestro ingenio para buscar alternativas que logren el control de esta especie en nuestra isla. El problema es de todos los pueblos de la isla. Además el costo al acceso a la esterilización es muy alto.
1012	One of the most human things we can do as humans is protect thise who cannot protect themselves. These cats have made a home in this beautiful piece of history and as it is preserved, so should the livelihood of these animals. There are those far and near who have dedicated themselves, time, money, efforts to ensuring these cats are well taken care of and not only that....loved. Leave them alone!
1013	Please let these sweet babies be cared for where they are. This is their home and all they know. I am in full support of Save a Gato's efforts and love for these precious kitties.
1014	The Puerto Rican cats are treasured and a maintained colony. This is a great opportunity to show your humanity and support the TNR (TRAP, NEUTER, RETURN) method instead of complete destruction of our feline friends. Take into consideration the effect that removing cats took in Australia - they had the worst rat infestation. The humane way to control the populationis to sterilize the cats, not kill them. Please, do the humane thing.
1015	Please don't euthanize and/or remove the cats at El Paseo del Morro, PR. Leave them where they are.

Corr ID	Correspondence
1016	<p>The neighbourhood and its cats are a national treasure and pride for Old San Juan. Removing it would not only damage this treasure but only put a band aid on what parks services thinks is an issue. I strongly condemn this move.</p>
1017	<p>Dear all.</p> <p>I write to express my concern about the actions of Governor of Arizona (Doug Ducey) who has authorized building a wall across the southern Arizona border using shipping containers.</p> <p>First, Governor Ducey is conducting this effort on federal land without requisite permission, something he has acknowledged. The Bureau of Reclamation has stated this unauthorized action constitutes trespassing. His disregard for law currently in place is worrisome.</p> <p>Also, Governor Ducey is ignoring the impact on animal wildlife that relies on this corridor to move across the land. Two animals of note are the endangered jaguar and ocelot. However, this wall of shipping containers impacts all wildlife, habitat, and plant life in this area. Any request under the Endangered Species Act takes 60 days before a court can issue an injunction. During this time and at the pace which the construction is presently occurring, Governor Ducey might well have this wall completed before any court can take action.</p> <p>Further, the use of shipping containers is questionable. There are significant gaps between many. These gaps are being filled with metal welded on either side. The containers are solid so there is no ability to see through them to know what is happening on the other side.</p> <p>Finally, the cost to install these containers is enormous -- now estimated at \$95 million. The cost to the environment and to wildlife dependent on this corridor is incalculable. If eventually the federal government finds the state of Arizona liable under Governor Ducey's actions, the state will likely bear the cost of removal.</p> <p>I urge you to take immediate and corrective action. Thank you for taking time to read my comment.</p>
1018	<p>Apoyamos la gestión de @saveagatopr y defendemos la permanencia de los felinos en el Paseo de El Morro bajo la tutela de dicha organización, que cuenta con gran prestigio en el sector del bienestar animal a nivel local e internacional. NO estamos de acuerdo en que los eliminen.</p>
1019	<p>The proposed action plan to remove the cats from their current home is absolutely disgusting. These beautiful animals have lived here for years and have only brought joy to those who live in the area or are lucky enough to visit. Under "Purpose of the Plan" you state that removing these cats will improve visitor experience which couldn't be farther from the truth. So many people come to this area just to see these beautiful cats. You also state that cats carry diseases which is exactly why the people at Save A Gato work endlessly to get these cats the veterinary care they need so this isn't a valid issue. You also mention the smell of urine or feces several times, but I have visited this location multiple times and have never once noticed this being a problem. Finally, these cats are living creatures who deserve to be treated with respect. It is unfair and unnecessary to remove them from their home. Save A Gato is a wonderful organization and they should be allowed to continue their work with the cats in this area.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1020	I am shocked to see the news of the intention to remove the cats from Old San Juan Puerto Rico. It was so lovely to go and see them on my vacation there. They have been there for such a long time and they are so well taken care of. I don't see how they are "damaging" property. I do not support the removal of them at all, just let them be.
1021	The cats' presence in Old San Juan is wonderful. They're lovely, gentle creatures that have a historic presence in the area. Removing them would be next to criminal.
1022	We love the cats in Paseo del Morro. They are well cared for and bring a unique component to the area. Love them!
1023	Do NOT remove (euthanize) the cats and kittens found en el Paseo del Morro. The community has not asked for the government's involvement in taking care of them, health-wise and are open to receiving and taking them in. They do not do anything to the land and are treasured and loved by locals and tourists alike. Use the money you would to remove them for keep the parks clean and away from privatization in other states. We do not need you, we do not want you so do not intervene in a business that doesn't concern you. Thank you.
1024	When I heard that they wanted to get rid of Old San Juan cat colony I was crestfallen and truly upsets. These cats have been there forever and help control pests and give character to the old city. I see turist and locals following the cats around taking pictures and petting them. They are part of Old San Juan, just like they are when you visit cities like Rome and Countries as Turkey. The organization Save a Gato helps them to be neutered and keeps track of them. A lot of locals help too because we care. They are part of us and it would be horrible to have Old San Juan stripped from these lovely creatures.
1025	<p>The cats of Paseo del Morro are treasured and are a part of the history of Old San Juan, El Morro and Puerto Rico as a whole. They ADD to the cultural landscape, because this is where they have been since the 1500s.</p> <p>Save A Gato does extraordinary work in caring for the free-ranging cats in the Paseo (and elsewhere in Old San Juan) and they are experts in management of the colony. I personally followed their early morning efforts on November 4, 2022 in the Paseo to TNR and check on the existing population and it was incredibly successful. 5 cats and 2 kittens were humanely trapped, vetted (including spay/neuter, full vaccinations and health checks) and set up with adoption options. The dedication to the welfare of these animals is unmatched and it is my belief that they should remain tasked with the care and management of the cats, NOT the National Park Service. They also work to ensure the Paseo is kept clean, picking up trash regularly. I am so impressed with this nonprofit organization, it far exceeds many I have witnessed State-side.</p> <p>Additionally, the tourists I met the following day on the Paseo all had positive things to say about the cats. There is no need to remove these historically rooted cats.</p>
1026	Save a Gato is a wonderful organization caring well for the cats that are important to the community. I hope they can continue to do their important work!!
1027	<p>Good afternoon. I am an author and journalist who has lived in Viejo San Juan off and on since 2019.</p> <p>During that time, like my neighbors, I have grown very attached to the street cats in the neighborhood (I have adopted two of them into my home personally), including those who inhabit the Paseo del Morro. In addition to having become one of the major tourists attractions in the area, with tourists stopping to pet and be photographed with the cats, they</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>also provide an important natural pest control against the mice and rats that would otherwise overrun a neighborhood where open dumpsters are common.</p> <p>I know many people, myself included, who, during the tumultuous, difficult and uncertain times that Puerto Rico has experienced in recent years, have taken solace from the timeless presence of these animals, who have been a fixture of the neighborhood for literally hundreds of years and who are as much a part of Viejo San Juan as the cobblestones or the Caribbean Sea. They are beloved by their community and their removal would represent an act of state violence against the citizens of Viejo San Juan and Puerto Rico itself.</p> <p>The cats must remain, the TNR program must continue, and they must be allowed to continue their historic role in the neighborhood.</p>
1028	<p>As a Puerto Rican living in the US, I raise my voice in defense of the street cats of Viejo San Juan, which are loved & cared for by the community. The US Department of the Interior & the San Juan National Historic Site are threatening to seize & remove when so many other humane solutions could be considered.</p>
1029	<p>Before said anything you; Natuonal Parks must Provide scientific evidence that show the impact on The historical site of these cats colony. What you are proposing is not solution. Killing cats Is not the solution. If you really what to take care of The problems please help the organization that save And help the cats.</p>
1030	<p>I consider that if there's a way to help the organization Save a Gato, it should be done. This group of people has been helping to control the cats population in the area, but it's not a secret that they can't do it alone. These cat won't hurt anybody, and little by little they have been spayed so there's no more kittens suffering in the streets. Save a Gato feeds them daily and even works to give on adoption the super friendly ones. These cats shouldn't be removed, because removing them will mean that most of them will end in shelters suffering more or even dying, and they don't deserve that.</p>
1031	<p>Please do not remove the cats from Paseo del Morro. This is the cats home and they have been there for centuries. I love going to see the cats. Save A Gato non profit feeds and protects these cats, they are not a danger to anyone. If anything we are a danger to them. I urge you to please protect these cats and let them stay.</p>
1032	<p>I see no need to disturb the cats or the feeding stations. They have been roaming San Juan since they arrived with the Spanish, and play an important role in controlling the rat population. They are beloved by locals and tourists and should not be disturbed.</p>
1033	<p>Thank you so much for your decision to remove the stray cat colony from Castillo San Cristóbal Visitor Center in Old San Juan. I want to be clear that I love animals, and run an animal-rescue charity in Puerto Rico. However, the cats completely overrun what could be a beautiful National Park or National Monument. They are disgusting, they pee everywhere and the entire area smells like cat urine, and they undoubtedly wreak havoc on the natural bird population. Castillo San Cristóbal could be a beautiful ecological site and a natural habitat for the many birds that migrate or winter in Puerto Rico if it were not for the cat colony. Not to mention the cats fight and sustain injuries, and are left to suffer outside with a number of feline diseases (e.g. FIV, feline leukemia) even though everyone likes to pretend they are "happy" and "free" outside. Based on what I've seen in local rescue communities here on the island, you are likely getting a lot of hateful and negative messages</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	but I just wanted to say not everyone feels that way, and I am grateful that someone is finally taking action.
1034	I am against this plan. The cats are harmless.
1035	Don't kill the cats of Old San Juan!!! They serve their purpose of controlling rodent infestation. They are also part of the beautiful views of the city's historical heritage. Save a Gato is doing an extraordinary job to care for and protect the beloved cats.
1036	Please do not exterminate the cats as part of your management plan. Doing so would be inhumane. The feline colonies have historic and cultural significance.
1037	As a tourist who loves Puerto Rico and its gatos, I urge the park service and local officials to please please please spare the felines of San Juan from demise, and find humane and safe methods of managing the population... catch, spay/neuter and release instead of euthanizing. Let them live and give them care. Allow the residents and visitors to enjoy their fellow animal kingdom co-residents while also limiting nuisance. Thank you for your consideration. Cat lover and San Juan lover,
1038	No saquen los gatos. No dan problema y es lo mejor del Paseo. Por favor dejenlos en su hogar.
1039	Do not remove the cats from el paseo del Morro in Old San Juan. There is enough evidence to support their stay there. An organization and the neighborhood takes care of them: food, water, medicine etc. Also the rats will take over Old San Juan again. There are not homes or business there. It's perfect for cats. Tourists love them. There are real problems in our city. Cats are not the problem. People are.
1040	Please 🙏 have mercy and do not kill the cats that protect our old city from rats, they do not harm humans and live peaceful lives in the park 🙏
1041	The cats aren't the problem. People are! Tourists love the cats. Neighbors and Save a Gato take care of them.
1042	La vida del planeta vale toda. Nadie tiene derecho a quitar la vida a ninguna especie sea humana o animal habiendo alternativas de adopción, refugios o esterilización.
1043	Hi! I am so enamored of your beautiful country and I love Old San Juan in particular. Part of what gives Old San Juan its charm is its free roaming cats. These cats are well cared for; fixed and vaccinated. They are part of a well managed colony, with wonderful and dedicated caregivers ready to assist any cat in need. As a tourist, I love seeing well-cared for colony cats. Nothing demonstrates a compassionate, kind, and heart-filled country than seeing well-loved street cats. These cats are beloved, and are certainly part of Old San Juan's lore. I was so disheartened to hear there are plans to kill these cats. I'm shocked that this is the path you are choosing. If you are worried about the tourists, I can assure you that seeing these cats amongst historical buildings and areas only adds to its charm. Killing these cats will be bad for business. It's cruel and heartless. You can gain a huge social media following by showcasing these cats on their own account on TikTok and Instagram, driving more tourists to the area. Do you think tourists would rather see happy and well fed cats lounging in the sun, creating a picture perfect moment, or rats scurrying across the way? If you still think getting rid of the cats is necessary, then PLEASE, work with the many groups and caretakers to humanely move them. Killing them will be highly problematic and I, along with many others, will make sure tourists know this is how Puerto Rico cares for its

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>animals. As the novelist Pearl S Buck said, "...for the test of a civilization is the way it cares for its helpless members". Please reconsider this motion to kill or remove these cats from the only home they have known. Work WITH these advocacy groups and caretakers to find a way these beautiful creatures can continue to co-exist with the people and tourists of Old San Juan. It is your ethical responsibility to do so. Thank you for your time and consideration</p>
1044	<p>Por favor no los remuevan, controlar la poblacion y tratar adoptarlos</p>
1045	<p>Leave the cats alone, they are one of the best things about visiting El morro and old san juan. The only change I see that would be beneficial is providing food and medical care, I donate to save a Gato regularly to assist in their care myself.</p>
1046	<p>Please consider a similar program for the cats of San Juan as that for which i was a volunteer years ago.</p> <p>We trapped and released feral cats, after they were neutered.</p> <p>Employ the services of a local vet clinic, and hopefully a significant percentage of the cats can be trapped and neutered. Luckily, this type of campaign need not capture every cat in order to be effective.</p> <p>All life wants to do it Live, and my understanding is these cats are part of the natural environment.</p> <p>Please always be humane and considerate of what the local people desire.</p>
1047	<p>These cats are part the Viejo San Juan community. They have been for here for centuries. People care for them and they help control rats and mice populations. Without any government help the Save a Gato has been conducting a TNR program that has been very successful. Instead of listening to outsiders and newcomers, listen to bonafide local community organizations and Save a Gato. They treat cats and dogs with great care and humanity. For once, listen to the people that know what is going on and are doing something positive about it.</p>
1048	<p>National Park Service needs to acknowledge that the cats have been there for decades. They are a very special part of Old San Juan. Cats are not things that you can dispose. This are living creatures that live in the community. Instead, you guys need to work hand in hand with Save a Gato, a volunteer non profit, that is doing what the local and federal government should be doing. Help by adding cameras and give fines to people that abandon cats in the area. Be part of the solution not the problem. Show the people of PR and tourist that love seeing the cats that we are a humane country. Thank you in advance.</p>
1049	<p>Los Gatos de el vsj son parte de una pintura en el museo dinámico que son nuestras calles y colores. Ellos son parte de nuestra vecindad y de la identidad que es el Viejo San Juan. Hasta los que están en el paseo de la princesa, ellos no molestan solo están allí como guardianes de la bahía. Son amigables y están felices en su hogar. Save a gato hace una labor titánica para poder mantener a esos Gatos saludables y esterilizados para poder controlar esa población. Claro con más ayuda se podría hacer más pero con lo que tienen lo hacen muy bien. Me parece una falta de sensibilidad que National Park services quieran deshacerse de ellos de una manera inhumana. Antes que los estadounidenses no hicieran territorio ya nuestros Gatos estaban en el área. Creo que de deberían reconsiderar su actitud ante atroz decisión hacia los felinos. Hay espacio para todas las especies si estamos dispuestos a convivir.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1050	<p>The cats of Paseo del Morro are treasured by the locals, the tourist and part time residents. These cats have survived so much and have been through so much already that is only fair to leave them live their best life. There are organizations finding them homes, fosters and getting them neutered. Please!!! They have the same to live and enjoy life as we do. Let's not forget that they didn't ask to be on the streets, and the only reason they are on the street now is because they were throw there and left to their own by irresponsible people to begin with. Please, help us help them in a humane way 🙏</p>
1051	<p>I am writing this comment because I heard that there is a plan developing to manage-control-eliminate the cat colony that inhabits Paseo del Morro in Old San Juan. We have visited Old San Juan twice in the past and it is mainly because we wanted to visit the cat sanctuary. It was amazing to see all the cats co-exist with locals and tourists alike with the help of organizations such as Save a Gato. Our first trip was in 2017 and we really enjoyed our daily walk to Paseo del Morro to visit the cats. After major hurricane that year, we visited again in 2018 and we were so glad to see many of the cats we acquainted on our previous trip to be safe and sound and greeted us again. I truly believe it is a huge mistake for the government to try managing/controlling/eliminating this world-known historic cat colony. Rather than doing so, perhaps the government fund the organizations such as Save a Gato, so that they can continue to help these cats and maintain the colony.</p>
1052	<p>Please do not kill or remove the cats of Viejo San Juan. 500 years of ecological balance are at stake here. Tradition is at stake. Beside which, since you are removing only a part of the cats, you will have repopulation in no time, making this a colossal waste of money, too.</p> <p>The cats are charming and sweet, and they are a part of the landscape now. They are there to control the rodent population. They do a fine job. Remember the killing of the Yellowstone wolves? That didn't go so well either.</p> <p>So please leave the cats to live their lives in peace.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
1053	<p>Please let the cats stay, they do no harm and they are heart warming to see in PR...</p>
1054	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>I am writing to express my concern with the National Park Service's plan to remove cats from various areas within Old San Juan. TNR, known as trap-neuter-release, is the only effective way to control the colony of feral cats in Old San Juan. Save a Gato has been working tirelessly for years to achieve a fully neutered colony of cats, who can safely roam the area without causing a larger population. These cats are, without a single doubt, one of the best things about Puerto Rico. These cats harm absolutely nobody. Some of them are skiddish, some of them are timid, some of them are friendly, some love to be pet, and others watch from the sidelines. None of them jump out of bushes attacking people. These cats are among the friendliest cats I've ever seen. My recommendation would be to give Save a Gato more funding to continue caring for these cats. They deserve to remain on their land that they have inhabited for hundreds of years.</p> <p>Please do not remove the most precious gift to San Juan.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
1055	<p>The cats are well cared for and add to the site. Keep the cats!</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1056	<p>I applaud your efforts. This has been a huge problem for a very long time. These animal pose a giant threat to local biodiversity. This includes birds, reptiles, amphibians, and also mammals like the manatee since it has been published that cat feces is a main vector for toxoplasmosis infection in manatee populations in PR. They are also a vector of rabies, and they make this culturally important location less attractive for tourism. Please also consider handling out fines to people seen releasing and feeding these animals. If someone want to feed them, they should have a permit to do so, and this permit should only be given to organizations that are trying to fix the problem by finding new homes for these cats.</p>
1057	<p>Dear Superintendent:</p> <p>It has come to my attention that the NPS is planning to eliminate the stray cats that have for many years inhabited the forts and surrounding areas under your jurisdiction in Old San Juan. This cat population, which descends from the original cats brought to Puerto Rico by early Spanish settlers, plays an important role in controlling the rodent populations in Old San Juan and indirectly the diseases they carry. It is important for the natural control of the rat and mouse populations in the forts, tunnels, streets, homes, businesses and other areas of Old San Juan that the cat population be maintained at a reasonable level. This can best be accomplished using the trap-neuter-release (TNR) program that was implemented in 2004 by Save-a-Gato and other volunteer organizations on the island. Besides being humane, it is also cost effective, does not require the use of poisons or traps, and is acceptable to the public.</p> <p>Having been involved with the control of wild rat populations in Puerto Rico over the past several decades and having reviewed the history of the 1912 bubonic plague epidemic on the island in detail, as well as the longstanding problem of rat fever (leptospirosis), I believe that if these cats are eliminated, both rodent populations are certain to bloom bringing with them potential zoonotic disease outbreaks in humans that could threaten the public health and be extremely detrimental to tourism in Old San Juan, the San Juan National Historic Site, and the overall economy of Puerto Rico.</p> <p>I strongly urge you and the other agencies involved to reconsider the plan to eradicate, through whatever means, the stray cats at the forts, grounds and tunnel system under your jurisdiction and to allow the current TNR program to accomplish its goal of managing the stray cat population throughout Old San Juan.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
1058	<p>I have been visiting Old San Juan on vacation twice a year for the past couple years. One of my favorite my favorite things about Old San Juan is the cats!!!! They add such a colorful and fun flavor to El Morro and I've never been anywhere else in the world like this (and I have traveled extensively throughout the US and in over 30 countries.) The cats are well-cared for by the Save-a-Gato organization for which I have donated and volunteered. This is an excellent example of a public partnership and should be encouraged and supported rather than simply planning to remove the cats. Please reconsider this removal and support the work with Save-a-Gato. I can't imagine El Morro without the previous cats and this action could result in tourists deciding to visit other places.</p>
1059	<p>The cats of El Paseo in San Juan are not harmful for anybody. If the federal government needs to invest their money in something helpful, they better use it to buy or build public restrooms close to the El Morro garitas, because People, locals and turists use them to pee, and the bad olor is worse tan the cats. I have nevera see one of these cats attacking anyone in Omd San</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Juan. Put that money to work in a better surveillance against criminality. Cats are not any menaje, People are.
1060	<p>I have witnessed the hard work that Save a Gato does for the lives of all felines in Old San Juan. They do miracles with the little resources they have. The cats of Old San Juan have become iconic, and taking them out in the way that is proposed is just wrong.</p> <p>Save a Gato needs help from the government to improve the livelihood of these felines, not someone to just remove them and worst of all, kill them. I have adopted a cat from Save a Gato, and it pains me to think that if I didn't adopt him, he would be in danger of being put away by the government.</p> <p>There has to be another way to work through this. Animals lives are precious, and should not be taken lightly. Let's work together for a better solution.</p>
1061	<p>Concerning the Old San Juan cat colony and the Save a Gato organization: I have donated to them on several occasions so they may continue their work. The cats are mostly in an area where they are fed, captured and treated or sterilized. Many people take photos and find them a charming attraction. I have no complaints as long as save a gato continues to care for them and there aren't people feeding them all around town as the empty cat cans on occasion are seen on the street because some tourists feed them perhaps. This is not a problem. The rats are a problem. The excess garbage is a problem. The fact that organic garbage is not separated and taken to an appropriate place to use for energy and fertilizer instead of feeding the rats.</p>
1062	<p>Los gatitos merecen vivir, merecen permanecer en lugar donde se encuentran. Han pasado por TNR, son alimentados. Las personas los quieren, NOSOTRXS los queremos y VIVOS. No le hacen daño a nadie, al contrario promueven un ambiente de paz, armonía y tranquilidad.</p>
1063	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I would like to ask the National Park Service to please reconsider their proposal to move the cats out of Old San Juan. The cats are a wonderful part of the charm of the old city and a source of delight to visitors. Save a Gato puts tags on the adoptable ones, so they find forever homes. I have volunteered at their shelter in OSJ and I've seen firsthand their efforts to take care of the cats. I have seen their volunteers leaving food at feeding stations throughout the town. They make every effort to make sure the cats are healthy, get vet visits, and are cared for. I am Puerto Rican, and I feel that Old San Juan just wouldn't be the same without them. They are a part of us. They are not harmful, they do not bother people, they cause no problems, so I don't understand why the Park Service would want to remove them. This is a solution looking for a problem, and OSJ would be much poorer for it. Please, please, please don't remove the cats from OSJ.</p>
1064	<p>1. Removal and killing is unacceptable!!!!</p> <p>Si usted remueve esa Colonia ya, castrada y vacunada, solo servirá para que lleguen mas animales sin esterilizar ni vacunados.</p> <p>Propuestas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reunion inmediata entre el superintendente de la policia,save a Gato y parques nacionales, para poner en Accion El implementar multas correspondientes a los que abandona Gatos en El area. 2. Esterilizacion y vacunacion de los Gatos que hay an abandonado en El area 3. Campaña para recaudacion de fondos con El proposito de esterilizar,vacunar y empezar voluntarios a save a Gato

Corr ID	Correspondence
	4. Alimentar 2 veces Al dia y remover la comida restante. We have to learn to live in peace with other creatures!!
1065	I'm writing to protest the "plan" to remove the cat's of old San Juan. They're not a problem, they are taken of and help keep down the massive rats that populate OSJ.
1066	<p>Our family visited Old San Juan in July 2022. This was our second visit in eleven years. The day we went to visit the cats on the west side of Del Morro it was blazing hot and humid and not one of us recalls the smell of feces or urine. The issues outlined by the NPS seem to be written by someone who has no familiarity with cats.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cats do not urinate and defecate near where they eat. 2. Unlike dogs, cats will not approach or act aggressive towards unknown humans. They will run away. <p>It is my understanding that the cats have been present since the beginning of San Juan, therefore they should be considered part of the cultural landscape of Old San Juan not as against the landscape.</p> <p>Perhaps the NPS could provide funding to Save a Gato to expand their work vs paying an outside agency to eliminate the colony. We have been to Del Morro more than once and have never seen the cats in the highest traffic tourist areas. You have to make an effort to enter the park area where feedings stations are and if tourist do not want to go in that area they do not have to. It's not like it within sight or smell of the main attractions.</p>
1067	Please leave the cats unharmed. I rescued one of the cats from Save A Gato 10 years ago. We are so happy for all they are doing for our San Juan cats. These cats are part of history and part of the beauty in Old San Juan. Why kill these cats when they are part of Puerto Rico. All live matters ♡
1068	<p>I visited San Juan almost 10 years ago and was impressed with how well the people take care of stray cats. Most had the ear mark that identifies them as spayed or neutered, and I was surprised to learn that the people, and not the government, were behind these efforts. I am a dog person who is wary of cats, but my friend went to pet them and I followed. Some of these animals were incredibly tame and friendly. They almost seemed thanking us, as if we had anything to do with their care. After decades of inaction and non involvement, how can you NOW pretend to meddle in this? How about supporting the efforts already in place, and lending a hand to the experts who have been working the trenches for over a decade?</p> <p>BTW, as a side note, when I first moved into my building here in California, there were two cats who lived in the alley. I suspect they eventually died of old age or disease, since no one really cared for them. And guess who moved right after they disappeared? We've had a rat infestation ever since, and no matter how hard we try to eliminate the rats, they still pee and poop all around us, devastate our gardens and make the vegetables we grow inedible (when they do not eat the entire plants). One rat almost even bit my dog. Which do you prefer? You may not often SEE the rats, but their presence is felt everywhere and the health concerns they pose are infinitely more serious.</p>
1069	I worked in Old San Juan for a few years and I got to know many of the cats, I have lots of pictures featuring them. I was able to se how these cats make people happy (locals and tourists). Please keep these cats! They're not harming anyone. They help keep Old San Juan rat free. They make the colonial city even more special!
1070	As a cat lover and owner of a 3 year old tuxie, I was appalled to learn of this intent to get rid of one of the many charms of Old San Juan. These cats have a long history in these town and

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>have the same rights as human residents to stay in their home in Paseo El Morro. I've had the pleasure to witness the hard work that Save A Gato has done to maintain their surroundings clean and keeping the cats healthy and well cared for. As a child, I've been a regular visitor of this historic area and these cats bring a lot of joy and elegance with their variety of colors and hypnotic stares with their beautiful eyes. The tourists smile when they see them looking like statues. They bring peace and beauty to the city and are not in any way violent or dangerous, they stay away from people unless they offer them food or a nice hello. I ask of you to please evaluate each comment considering them as the cats voices as they cannot speak for themselves. Thank you for giving us this opportunity to stand up for these beautiful creatures that deserve to keep their home in Old San Juan. I as a Puerto Rican ask respectfully to let them live happily and freely as they've been for centuries.</p>
1071	<p>"Save A Gato" IS and SHOULD be a valued asset to the parks service. Most importantly, hey run themselves and provide excellent volunteer opportunities to the community, why would you oppose that? Secondly, they're providing services to cats that would otherwise never stand a chance. Lastly, they're located on the backside of Old San Juan. Rarely go tourists or others travel back to Save A Gato unless they're going to see the kitties! This is an obvious, no harm no foul situation. If anything, this organization is a huge benefit to OSJ and PR as a whole. You eliminate Save A Gato, and now YOU (Government) have to deal with this issue.</p>
1072	<p>Puerto Rico is a beautiful place. One of my favorite spots there is Old San Juan, which I simply can't imagine without the Cats of Old San Juan. Please think of alternatives to the proposal to remove/reduce these cats. There simply isn't a need for this.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The cats are an attraction, not a detractor to the visitor experience. They have been there for centuries and they deserve to be given consideration. 2. Getting rid of the cats will increase the rats. It doesn't take long for rats to move in once cats are gone from an area. 3. There are already organizations running effective trap, neuter, and release programs in the area. The NPS already partners with Save A Gato. Since starting TNR in 2004, Save A Gato has reduced the cat population by 50%. Please consider all of the possible ramifications that a large reduction/removal of these cats would create.
1073	<p>Save a Gato is a wonderful organization that has been around for 20 years sterilizing and making sure all the strays are healthy. They find homes for them or have people foster them until they can find someone to adopt them. Please let them do what they have been doing for 20 years. They are helping these poor cats. Please be humane and understanding of these poor creatures. Be the voice of the voiceless!</p>
1074	<p>Estimado Servicio de Parques Nacionales,</p> <p>Quiero hacer saber mi desacuerdo con la propuesta de eliminar los gatos que viven en el Paseo del Morro en el Viejo San Juan. Las expresiones sobre el trabajo de la organización Save a Gato que , para parafrasear, &quot;no están rindiendo frutos&quot;, me parece desacertadas.</p> <p>De acuerdo con la información contenida en el documento adjunto a la solicitud de comentarios, la población de gatos ha crecido a una tasa de 5.3 gatos por año. Considerando de que una gata puede parir en promedio 4 gatos por preñez y que la misma gata puede quedar preñada hasta 3 veces por año, el bajo incremento de gatos realengos en la colonia de San Juan indica que Save a Gato están haciendo un buen trabajo en su manejo de la colonia.</p> <p>Creo que una alternativa al &quot;do nothing&quot; podría ser asignar parcialmente los</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>posibles fondos disponibles para la remoción de los gatos a Save a Gato para que incluyan en su manejo de la colonia un objetivo de reducción de su tasa de crecimiento. Esto podría incluir un censo anual o cada dos años. Otra asignación de fondos podría ir a apoyar programas de esterilización de animales a bajo costo.</p> <p>Los gatos del Viejo San Juan forman parte del encanto de la ciudad. Un buen manejo de la colonia le demuestra a los residentes y turistas que en Puerto Rico sí guardamos el bienestar de los animales domésticos, salvajes, y realengos.</p> <p>Atentamente,</p>
1075	<p>As for today it has been three years that have been doing TNR for feral and abandoned cats at my community and assisting friends in this well known effective mechanism to control cats over population. Long studies of feral cats have discovered that they are of no harm to community and help in controlling plagues like rats and mice. These last ones are dangerous to humans as it is well known. Save a Gato is an entity that for years has being doing TNR practices where cats also get vaccinated. Also they have food and water stations for these beautiful cats. Give these cats te opportunity to live free where they are being living for as long our existence. Give the opportunity to Save a Gato foundation and other free independent rescuers to continue their heroism work! No harm to these cats, they are part of San Juan History and the people including tourists love them.</p>
1076	<p>Me parece sumamente injusto que quieran "remover" (matar) a Los Gatos del morro. Quisiera saber a quien se le ocurrió sugerir esto y por qué en este momento? Considero que se pueden buscar soluciones que no impliquen intervenir, matar o sacar a Los Gatos que viven ahí. La organización Save a Gato a trabajado con mucho esfuerzo para alimentar, cuidar, conseguirle hogar y hacerse cargo responsablemente de la situación. Podrían contribuir mejor aumentando la seguridad para que no haya espacio para personas irresponsables de soltar y abandonar las gatos ahí, ya que es un delito.</p>
1077	<p>Y las palomas del Parque de las Palomas en VSJ? Ellas sí que ensucian y transmiten enfermedades peligrosas y la gente come allí y hacen negocio vendiendo maíz. https://as.com/deporteyvida/2019/06/12/portada/1560332300_765520.html https://www.zotal.com/tipos-de-enfermedades-que-transmiten-las-palomas/ https://rpp.pe/vital/salud/palomas-pueden-causar-mas-de-40-enfermedades-noticia-660640 https://www.telesurtv.net/news/palomas-riesgo-salud-enfermedades-prevencion-20180815-0019.html https://www.earthguardpest.com/blog/2016/09/pigeons-are-a-health-hazard/</p>
1078	<p>I have been living in Miramar for the last two years and visited San Juan for years beforehand. The cats of San Juan are one of if not the best part of living here. First of all, the city is filthy, so I think these tax dollars and man power could be spent in a more efficient way is increasing the overall appeal of San Juan is the ultimate goal. Just before this meeting we were walking along the water which is filled with plastic waste. Cats kill rats and other vermin that come from such a place. These cats exist, to no fault of their own, and they make people happy. Why not use the money to build more inconspicuous feeding area that aren't made of plastic and don't create more waste? Why not use to your advantage people's love of animals and make it easier to adopt/donate? Save a gator is an amazing organization, to think you are spending tax money to make their initiative harder is disgraceful. As a transplant living in PR for two years, I can think of endless more important actions that should take precedent.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1079	<p>Me opongo y estoy en desacuerdo con la remoción de los gatos en el Viejo San Juan PR es una mala sedición y se envía un mensaje equivocado a nuestro niños al removerlos o disponer de ellos sacándolos del lugar donde ellos se desarrollan y crecen . Es además atractivo para el turismo . Educar, esterilizar y vigilar serían alternativas viables y humanas para la supervivencia de esta especie en el lugar.</p>
1080	<p>I have several questions as to why this proposal is suddenly emerging when there are much more important issues to be addressed in Puerto Rico but let's start by addressing the points that were made in the newsletter.</p> <p>To start off, I want to place my support in having a healthy, sterilized cat population which is what Save A Gato has been working tirelessly for the past nearly 20 years to achieve. I loved seeing the cats when I visited PR.</p> <p>To my points,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is claimed that TNR is not working. On the contrary (in spite of the fact that there is a social issue of cat and dog overpopulation on an island struggling with storms, poor infrastructure, and limited affordable vet services), the fact that in 2005 there were 120 cats and in 16 years (since the year surveyed was 2021) there was only 200 cats counted. Clearly that's an increase but in the setting of known cat dumping, that is a fairly small increase (~80) when a single cat can produce 1-8 kittens per litter and 2-3 litters per year so between 3 to 24 kittens per year per adult female cat. This is actually clear evidence that TNR is working in a setting where the cat population isn't isolated. 2. The proposed alternative does not address the long standing issues above. There will always be cat dumping/many cats in San Juan and thus would require frequent "cat removal" visits. Instead of humanely treating/TNR'ing the cat population, there is acknowledgement that there is not shelter space nor enough adopters for all of the adoptable cats. Yet there is no discussion as to what the "professional...[removal agency]" would do to their captured cats except that it is up to their discretion (for example, euthanization of the entire population remains a possibility as there is no planning on NPS's part of next steps and instead defers decision making). 3. You claim that there is likely an impact on the local wildlife without any data for backing up that statement. 4. You claim that some visitors complain about the cats and again do not supply data for what portion complain while acknowledging that the cats are often adored by visitors of which there has been at least one book (Cobblestone Cats - Puerto Rico: The Cats of Old San Juan by Alan Panattoni) written documenting their long history in PR. 5. I do enjoy the fact you complain about rats eating at the cat feeding stations and show a picture of a pristine well maintained feeding station in the same newsletter. I have noticed throughout this newsletter that often claims were made without data nor do they clarify beyond basic generalized points (such as suddenly needing to become in compliance with "existing authorities" without specifying who said authorities are).
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	<p>To my points,</p> <p>1. It is claimed that TNR is not working. On the contrary (in spite of the fact that there is a social issue of cat and dog overpopulation on an island struggling with storms, poor infrastructure, and limited affordable vet services), the fact that in 2005 there were 120 cats and in 16 years (since the year surveyed was 2021) there was only 200 cats counted. Clearly that's an increase but in the setting of known cat dumping, that is a fairly small increase (~80) when a single cat can produce 1-8 kittens per litter and 2-3 litters per year so between 3 to 24 kittens per year per adult female cat. This is actually clear evidence that TNR is working in a setting where the cat population isn't isolated.</p> <p>2. The proposed alternative does not address the long standing issues above. There will always be cat dumping/many cats in San Juan and thus would require frequent "cat removal" visits. Instead of humanely treating/TNR'ing the cat population, there is acknowledgement that there is not shelter space nor enough adopters for all of the adoptable cats. Yet there is no discussion as to what the "professional...[removal agency]" would do to their captured cats except that it is up to their discretion (for example, euthanization of the entire population remains a possibility as there is no planning on NPS's part of next steps and instead defers decision making).</p> <p>3. These cats have lived in the area since the 1500s. Local rescue groups work 365 days a year to care for, spay/neuter, and feed these cats. This is an urban park where the cats are not putting native wildlife at risk. The newsletter claims that there is likely an impact on the local wildlife without any data for backing up that statement. The briefly cited policies may make sense for National Parks that contain wilderness, but this park is urban and the policies regarding wildlife and invasive species are not pertinent to this location.</p> <p>4. You claim that some visitors complain about the cats and again do not supply data for what portion complain while acknowledging that the cats are often adored by visitors of which there has been at least one book (Cobblestone Cats - Puerto Rico: The Cats of Old San Juan by Alan Panattoni) written documenting their long history in PR. The residents of the area, tourists, and the people of PR want these cats to remain with local organizations continuing to care for them.</p> <p>5. I do enjoy the fact you complain about rats eating at the cat feeding stations and show a picture of a pristine well maintained feeding station in the same newsletter. I have noticed throughout this newsletter that often claims were made without data nor do they clarify beyond basic generalized points (such as suddenly needing to become in compliance with "existing authorities" without specifying who said authorities are).</p>
1082	<p>Reasons why the cats should stay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -They add to the charm -Tourists love them (I take tourists there daily) -Everyone loves them -They pose no threat nor harm -They are a natural pest control <p>How they could stay:</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Build better feeding stations - charge to feed cats -Build better litter stations -Turn it into a tourist attraction
1083	<p>What are the native species cats put in danger?</p> <p>National Park Service should work together with Save a Gato, helping educate the public about TNR, about the consequences of abandoning cats.</p> <p>The focus should be working together not apart and against.</p>
1084	<p>I was privy to seeing the Save A Gato operation when I visited Puerto Rico some 18 years ago. I have been a loyal supporter by donations on a monthly basis. I was extremely content with the care within the TNR scope and further care of these well deserved unlucky animals. That someone was indeed looking after their livelihood. I have visited your island and found that street animals are mistreated in general terms, which is utterly disgusting! Puerto Rico is known for many fine achievements and it would be noteworthy if you would take the necessary steps to show the world your kindness, care and responsibility for the unlucky street animals whom through no fault of their own, have become homeless and many times abandoned like the cats of Old San Juan at El Morro.</p> <p>These cats are also a tourist sensation because of its uniqueness impacting heavily on their feelings about Puerto Rico.</p> <p>I sincerely hope your hearts are in the right place and understand the plight caused by being homeless and uncared for.</p> <p>Yours truly;</p>
1085	<p>I am ashamed of the National Park System for claiming to care for the welfare of animals. With all problems in National Parks. Wolves over hunting, to insects taking out whole forests. You are worrying about some cats. Spend money where it is needed. We have an established system here for keeping cats free of disease, fleas, and neutered. Work with Save a Gato and help them trap and keep cats healthy. I lived in Houston, TX for a year and we would go to the outside theater, rats and mice would run in between the people sitting on blankets. Is it because they are not trying to control the problem? No! It is because an exterminator alone cannot control the problem. Cats are the ones controlling the rat problem!</p>
1086	<p>No a matar Los Gatos en San Juan , no hacen daño a nadie Al contrario , nos protegen .</p>
1087	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>[She] is one of the most compassionate and driven animal advocate and activist I know. She is constantly on the move around the globe to rescue animals, dogs and cats, from Ukraine, Florida, Puerto Rico, to name a recent few trips.</p> <p>The cats of Paseo del Morro are part of the history of old San Juan. She feels very strongly their presence enhances the cultural landscape and Save A Gato does exemplary work to manage and care for their population. Molly believes these innocent creatures deserve to remain where they are, and I support her in this endeavor.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Thank you.
1088	<p>The old San Juan community as well as tourists and visitors from other towns love the cats and love that they are taken care of!</p> <p>Let us lobby for funds for Save a Gato to prevail and sustain their amazing work.</p> <p>Leave the cats alone!</p> <p>Long life for the cats!</p>
1089	<p>I am not necessarily a cat lover, but I am all for Save a Gato, TNR, and the cats of Old San Juan. I feel there is an opportunity here for National Parks to educate folks about TNR. To use the efforts of Save a Gato to educate the rest of the island about humane control of stray cats. We can collaborate to reach an improved situation - less stray cats, a cleaner park(which is already charming and beautiful as is, with cats), and educating PR to do similar clean ups and TNR efforts everywhere. This is not just about the park and cats of Old San Juan. This is about PR's un-education on TNR and treatment of animals. It could send a terrible message or it could spearhead a long-lasting improvement in cat control, treatment of animals, and a park everyone can remain proud of. Let's take advantage of this opportunity, together!</p>
1090	<p>Protect the cats. They deserve to stay at Paseo del Morro. The cats add to the charm of Old San Juan. They are also a form of pest control.</p> <p>I am a photographer and shoot mostly in Old San Juan.</p> <p>The tourists I work with all love the cats. Not once has a tourist said they are bothered by the cats. I take new tourists to Paseo about five times as week. Never has anyone been bothered by the cats. It's the opposite, they love the cats.</p> <p>Instead of removing them, maybe build better feeding stations out of cement so it blends with Paseo. Maybe tourists can pay to feed them, etc...</p> <p>There are many ways in which the cats can stay and it can be feasible.</p>
1091	<p>The NPS should provide a legitimate forum to discuss the issue of the cats at Paseo with a true opportunity for public comment. I am a resident of Old San Juan and I feel like this so-called "public forum" was cheating locals out of the opportunity to have a discussion and raise questions and concerns.</p> <p>If the cats are removed we will introduce a host of new problems, vermin. Rats, mice, insects, and others that we presently don't have an issue with. The streets of Old San Juan are unique in San Juan in general, as we are the only neighborhood without a vermin issue. This is due to the San Juan cat colony. "Humane removal" is so transparently a euphemism for execution. With the funds that would be used to execute the cats, the NPS could donate to Save a Gato to increase TNR efforts which will truly be a humane and ecologically responsible approach. Please listen to the local community! Save the cats!</p>
1092	<p>The reasons giving for wanted to exterminate the cats are vague and weak.</p> <p>What complaints from tourists?</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Has anyone ever gotten ill from the cats? Most tourists and people know not to touch stray cats or at their own risk. Anyone who travels knows this.</p> <p>The cats are an eclectic part of San Juan tourism just like in any other country. If the U.S. Federal Government doesn't like it, maybe they should leave the island.</p> <p>One solution would be to provide more resources to Save a Gato so they can do their job more effectively.</p>
1093	<p>Paseo should be free of cats. I don't believe in putting them in eternal sleep, I believe they should be relocated. Decrease the feeding stations by stages, but this has to be monitored by the Park Service. Currently in some areas of feeding stations the odor is too strong it's not healthy. The feeding stations are not only for cats, it also feeds iguanas, roosters, hens, and rats. Cats don't attack iguanas. Finally, I still recommend decreasing the feeding stations and relocating the cats. Please no killing.</p>
1094	<p>We love our cats in El Paseo del Morro</p> <p>They live there since way before and it is their birthright.</p> <p>Fund Save a Gato. Fund Save a Gato.</p>
1095	<p>What I would like to know is what prick all of the sudden decides he hates cats and they have to go? They have been here for years with no problems. Take a vacation, not a power trip!</p> <p>There are more important things to worry about on this planet! Jeesh</p>
1096	<p>I am disappointed and displeased with the way the park wants to handle the decision of the cats. They bring happiness and protection to us. To exterminate them is against what National Parks do which is to protect the lives of animals. Cats are animals leading to protecting them. They control the population of rats which therefore controls diseases. Many people enjoy seeing them and taking pictures of them. They bring a huge smile on my face when I walk around. There is a system here which controls cats by neutering them and vaccinating them preventing from rabies and other sicknesses. This brings questions of what issues are the cats actually bringing? I myself haven't seen or heard anyone complain about the cats. I haven't seen a tourist having to plug their nose or express how it smells. If cats disappeared then the rate population will explode and rats would be everywhere in the streets.</p>
1097	<p>As an outsider and Save a Gato volunteer, I have put my time and effort into taking care of the rescued cats in VSJ. I walk the streets of San Juan and see the cats only as healthy as the funds of Save a Gato will be able to provide. I have never once seen the National Park Services offer help for the cats. The issue that is being presented is that the cats are "bothering the tourists", inconsistent with the "paisaje cultural," and spreading diseases. Firstly the tourism is brought in more because of the cats, because people love them and because they are a part of the culture. I have never gotten sick from the cats and in fact, feline diseases do not transmit to humans. The ones which do are the ones from the rats which the cats are actually helping keep under control. So if we take away the cats how will the rats be</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	controlled? And if they are eliminated what other species will take their place. What we want is for help for Save a Gato.
1098	<p>I'm writing to this letter to the national Park service to expressed my outrage and discussed that you would consider removing peaceful cats from your parks from the cities. These animals should be considered a national treasure because in fact they are appreciated and admired by tourists and the local population. There is something extremely backward in your effort to destroy and remove these animals. It will not help your reputation, it will only ruin it. I hope you come to your senses before it's too late for these cats. I'm not even a cat lover but there is a certain outdated thinking and play here by someone who has a bad idea. The cats are part of what makes you special and unique.</p> <p>Sincerely</p>
1099	<p>The cats of El Paseo are a huge reason we enjoy visiting and staying in Viejo San Juan. We visit them every day when visiting and look forward to it every time, they are the reason why we get air bnb's in VSJ. They bring joy and have overcome adversity and the most trying of times and deserve to stay in place. Removal will be a huge mistake and will result in decreased tourism to the area.</p>
1100	<p>I visited Paseo Del Morro with my family in early November 2022. We were surprised and enchanted by the cats we saw there, and went into the Save a Gato building and enjoyed learning about their program from their dedicated volunteers who were hard a work cleaning kitten cages and caring for cats. Had we been at the end of our trip instead of the beginning, we likely would have left with an adopted kitten and will consider this organization if we adopt a cat in the future. The cats we saw on our walk to the fort were all friendly and appeared to be in good health. My grade school aged children stopped to pet MANY of them.</p> <p>We commented about what a unique situation it was, to have these cats and the Save a Gato facility along the historical fort wall and also how we also noticed very few rats in San Juan during our stay there. We are from the historic port city of Charleston, SC which has very few free roaming cats... but Charleston certainly has a significant rat problem in its historic district. I think Old San Juan might have a very unpleasant surprise of a skyrocketing rat population in the absence of its feline population.</p> <p>I would strongly oppose removing the cats from Paseo Del Morro. Save A Gato is a wonderful organization doing good work there, and it seems there must be some common sense way to let their positive efforts continue. The cats are a unique presence at this historic site and contribute to its character, and they should be considered an asset worth preserving.</p> <p>I think the cats and their presence in this historic site will be something that stands out in our family's memory for a very long time and I know if we go back, we will have to return to spend time with the Gatos at El Morro.</p>
1101	<p>Please do NOT remove the cats from Old San Juan with Save A Gato. This nonprofit is extremely beneficial to the stray cats in Puerto Rico and a source of great happiness for myself each time I visit Old San Juan. Save a gato has been working for decades and these cats deserve to stay in their home. Please highly consider this message and allow the cats to stay.</p> <p>With great appreciation,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1102	<p>Hello , to whom it may concern</p> <p>I'm here writing today to the national park services because I'm very upset with you guys. I learned that the National park services wants to get rid of the defenseless cats that roam around old San Juan. This new upset me so much I wasn't born in Puerto Rico but let me tell you something I visited old San Juan in October or 2022 and I fell in love with the Island but what really stood out to me from the whole trip was that walk to the Parque de gatos. Reason being is these defenseless cats don't do no harm as a matter of fact I saw other people I believe tourist happy to pet a cat and yes we can't control the outside world but why remove them they don't bother anyone. There's organizations like saveagato who helped TNR these furry friends and we can continue to help them to make the life's of theses babies better. From th bottom of my heart please don't remove these cats there harmless and there the best of the whole Island of Puerto Rico.</p> <p>Best regards</p>
1103	<p>Los gatitos son parte de la comunidad ellos nos alegran cuando vamos al morro ademas contribuyen al control de plagas de ratones es adorables verlos alli por favor no los maten los gatitos son seres vivos que merecen vivir ese es su hogar.</p>
1104	<p>Please save and maintain the car colony. They have been there for decades and have now become a part of the historic space. Plus they offer vital rodent control without the use of harmful poisons which will pollute the environment. We should learn to respect the earth and let these wonderful natural inhabitants work their course. As well as greet and entertain visitors. They are ambassadors for San Juan.</p> <p>Thank you so much,</p>
1105	<p>Removing this well known, well loved cat population would be such a shame. They are loved, well taken care of, and have left a positive impression with so many. The history behind them is fascinating and should not be erased.</p> <p>With the ongoing support of Save a Gato, I absolutely think they should remain. Visiting them while wandering the beautiful old city is my favourite thing to do in PR and I know others that feel the same. Please reconsider.</p>
1106	<p>Please stop the removal of the cat population. They are beautiful creatures being well cared for that tourists have grown to love. Removing them would be frowned upon by many visitors from around the globe.</p>
1107	<p>I.lived in Old San ,Juan for many years a d ats are part of the community. Be proactive with with them . No to your initiatlve.</p>
1108	<p>Those cats Re part of the identity of Old San Juan, specially el Morro. There's so many organizations that take cares of them, they spay them, put vaccines, water & food. An important thing about those cats is that the are predators, Old SJ as an old city with restaurants, etc. has a lot of rats (with all the dangrer that they bring), this cats help to control them.</p>
1109	<p>Saludos!!</p> <p>Muchos lugares en Puerto Rico son de mucho abandono y maltrato tanto a perros como gatos. Es un alivio visitar el paseo de morro y ver como esos animales que no pidieron nacer y que no tienen malicia, viven alli protegidos, alimentados, cuidados y lo mas importante ESTERILIZADOS. Me llena de orgullo ese paseo porque demuestra que una gran cantidad</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>de puertorriqueños amamos y respetamos a los animales. Es un lugar historico lleno de paz. He caminado muchas veces por alli. Ni un solo gato se ha acercado a hacernos daño. El paseo esta limpio, la comida de gatos en un lugar en especifico y no huele mal como muchas personas han dicho. Solo se les nota que se sienten protegidos en ese lugar. De los pocos lugares en Puerto Rico que los animales se sienten protegidos y amados. Por favor, ruego no les quiten ese unico lugar preciado para ellos. Gracias a Save A Gato por la labor hermosa que han hecho y lo que les falta pues hay mucho por hacer todavia. GRACIAS SAVE A GATO.</p> <p>Gracias,</p>
1110	<p>I am against the revival of the cat's, the cat's are sterilized, we'll feel and they become part of the tourism, most tourist love the cat's, save a gato have been working for many year's and still going strong</p>
1111	<p>Los gatos en San Juan han sido algo histórico. Fueron traídos por la alta plaga de ratones que hubo en su tiempo y hay si ellos no estuvieran ahí. Entiendo que el problema de población de gatos a sido algo que se a ido de las manos pero hay organizaciones trabajando para eso. Estoy en contra de que eliminen a los gatos por que mu has veces hasta son símbolo de San JUAN y hay personas que van solo para verlos. Y ellos han mantenido el control de las plagas en San Juan. Mi familia y yo adoptamos a un gato sanjuanino, Feathers. Creo que es una idea demasiada radical la eliminación de los mismos, espero que encuentren una solución con las organizaciones.</p>
1112	<p>Para mí siempre ha sido una terapia poder caminar y observarlos en el Paseo de la Princesa. He visto como los turistas también los disfrutan mucho. Nunca he sentido mal olor ni he visto excremento en los alrededores. Realmente pienso que más daño hacen los visitantes del Viejo San Juan pues orinan en las garitas, estacionamientos. Todos sabemos también que las grandes actividades que se realizan en el Viejo San Juan dejan las calles verdaderamente sucias y con grandes cantidades de basura. No creo que sean los gatos que afectan el Viejo San Juan, es el ruido ,las actividades festivas y las protestas las que verdaderamente afectan.</p>
1113	<p>La única razón por la que visitó el area del paseo y Morro es ver los gatos los cuales están limpios, con comida y agua además ellos no se meten con nadie si no los molestan no entiendo el porque querer removerlos ya que son parte del lugar y un atractivo turístico al igual que las palomas.</p> <p>A Puerto Rico le gusta mucho copiar lo que ven en otros países porque no copian las ideas donde respetan y cuidan los animales?</p>
1114	<p>Please leave these cats be, we greatly enjoy coming to see them whenever we can manage to take a cruise to San Juan. We enjoyed so much we met the same cat on two different trips and adopted her. Perhaps just helping to ensure all are spayed or neutered will help to decrease their numbers.</p>
1115	<p>Los gatos del Viejo San Juan son una parte integral del área. Soy reside te de PR. Camino todas las semanas por el Paseo la Princesa y me encanta ver e interactuar con los gatos en el camino. Ellos son totalmente necesarios para el control de plagas en el área. Los gatos del Viejo San Juan se han convertido en una atracción turística reseñados en Trip Advisor y en otras plataformas. He conocido personas que llegan al área buscando los gatos del Viejo San Juan.</p> <p>Si en realidad desean ayudar en vez de eliminar los gatos deberían ayudar con la esterilización y cuidado de los mismos. En otros países como Turquía los gatos de la calle son cuidados, alimentados, respetados y amados por la ciudadanía. Me parece que nos falta mucho por aprender, pero no es tarde para cambiar el curso de acción y en vez de eliminar</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	las población de gatos cambiemos los planes por ayudar a cuidar la población. Save a Gato lleva 20 años en esa tarea, me parece que deberían de unir los esfuerzos a la organización para lograr el bienestar de NUESTROS GATOS.
1116	We travel to Puerto Rico often. In fact, it was the first place we traveled after we were vaccinated from Covid. One thing that draws me back is El Morro with its splendor and the gatos. We always visit the gatos. After so many trips, the gatos are why we still spend some of our vacation in San Juan. We have taken countless photographs and spend hours walking the path around the fort. Please do not remove the gatos. If you do, we will not return as it will only be a memory of sadness. Also, we will see the entire NPS as a poorly run and managed organization.
1117	We come to old san juan every year..One of our stop every year is to see the 🐱kittys. They are a big draw to the area.We have taken home 3 kittys to live with us...It would break my heart ♡ not to visit these beautiful animals when we visit again.. please let the kittys stay..
1118	One of my favorite places to visit in Puerto Rico is the cat colony in Old San Juan, please do not destroy it! I regularly donate to Save a Gato and I know these cats are well taken care of. This cat colony is a tourist draw and the cats deserve to stay in their home.
1119	I ask that you please reject the proposal to remove the cats from Paseo Del Morro. These cats are a part of the appeal that Old San Juan has and we're largely a reason I chose to visit the area on my last vacation to Puerto Rico. Sharing a love for cats, my fiancé proposed to me in the park and it has a very special place on the hearts of many tourists. There were many there enjoying the company of the cats and removing them from what has now become their habitat could be detrimental in making people want to come back.
1120	Please continue to protect the free cats of old San Juan. The whole process of trap, neuter and release works. People love the cats and visit from all over the world to see the cats as well as the beautiful country. I also donate money to save a gato from the UK. I love to hear of the cats adoption stories and updates. I do wish wish my next visit to Old San Juan to be like my one photo of a rat.
1121	Please do not remove the cats, they are one of the main reasons we visit Old San Juan. It would be a huge mistake. They are the charm and heart of tge city.
1122	We oppose to this project. The cats are not a danger to anyone. They are healthy and are part of our patrimony. The cats have been there for years. Save a Gato has been doing an amazing job with these cats. Please focus your efforts on fixing other parks and areas of the island that need attention. Why killing the cats? They also control the mice population in San Juan. Please STOP this project!!!
1123	Old San Juan is beautiful but the only reason we stayed there was to visit the cat park maintained by Save a Gato. It was a beautiful park, inhabited by the friendliest and most social outdoor cats. We bought some cat food from the store and fed the cats/donated food to the organization. It was a huge part of our trip, and we were thankful to have been there. We loved it so much do, that we ended up adopting a cat from Save a Gato and had him brought over to the San Francisco Bay Area, which is where we live. The organization has done a fantastic job helping save these cats lives, either by spaying/neutering them or by helping them get adopted by a countless of people. Instead of tearing down the park, funds should go the other way by helping the organization become more modernized, helping them establish a bigger space. There should be a cafe put out there for visiting tourist, Old San Juan should embrace this tourist spot and provide comfort to the tourist who love and visit this spot. Turkey is also a country ran by outdoor cats but instead of putting an end to the cats lives, they embrace them and the city puts outdoor cat feeders for them. Embrace the tourist spot you have with these beautiful creatures.

Corr ID	Correspondence
1124	<p>We have visited Old San Juan several times with the express purpose of meeting the cats of OSJ & helping out at Save a Gato.</p> <p>If you have the resources for the cat removal, which is only going to be temporary until they regain the territory, then why don't you apply it in a concerted effort to Trap-Neuter-Release and make it a more managed population?</p> <p>The cats are as native to the island as most of it's inhabitants, they are not an invasive or destructive species.</p> <p>If you proceed with this action, you will be losing a unique charm of the area and certainly my tourist dollars.</p>
1125	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I strongly object to the proposal to remove the cats from Old San Juan. Organizations like Save a Gato exist and are providing medial services and rejoining services for these animals. The cats are providing pest control to the area, and are not harming people or property. Please do not senselessly execute or harm these beautiful creatures.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
1126	<p>Es injusto que estén planificando remover a Los Gatos que con tanto sacrificio Save a Gato ha estado rehabilitando, esterilizando y brindando alimentos. Estos gatos no merecen ser removidos y eutanizados. Estoy a favor de que se queden porque no hacen daño a nadie. Al contrario, son atractivo para nosotros los residentes de Puerto Rico y para los turistas.</p>
1127	<p>Los Gatos del viejo San Juan no le hacen daño a nadie, no los maten. Ellos están saludables y esterilizados. En vez de matarlos mejor ayuden a Save a Gato, ellos se dedican a darle una buena vida a Los Gatos. En Puerto Rico hace falta ayudas para poder lidiar con el abandono animal, para que así los animales no sufran y puedan tener una calidad de vida. Ellos no le hacen daño a nadie.</p>
1128	<p>My wife and I are visiting this portion of Old San Juan in the next few days and would like to comment on the removal of the cat population. We feel certain organizations like the Save-a-gato organization are doing great things with keeping a healthy and sterile cat population. Cats in the area can be good for pest control, and I have been reading about the history behind these felines and how they got there. We feel they are an important part of the population and should remian there unharmed. They are part of the city and history and it would be a shame if they were removed, especially if they aren't causing any harm.</p>
1129	<p>Dear NSP,</p> <p>Please consider keeping the cats of Old San Juan PR intact on the island. The history and presence of these cats is what makes the Island worth visiting. Removing the cats from the Pueblo is like removing the music of the coquis that sing our ancestors wisdom at night.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
1130	<p>We lived in Viejo San Juan for one year in 2018/2019. We would visit the cats daily and give treats. They are a part of the city, and they are well taken care of by Save-A-Gato and it's caring volunteers. These cats are not a nuisance, they keep to themselves, the path along the Paseo is well maintained, and the Save-A-Gato organization keeps the cat population in check with spaying/neutering them before allowing them to live in this area of Viejo San Juan. These cats deserve to have a place to live like any other being, and they are not hurting anyone or anything by living their lives out there while being taken care of by compassionate</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	humans. Please reconsider your plans, and understand the importance of the cats and Save-A-Gato for the city of Viejo San Juan.
1131	I can't call this any other way but inhumane. The cats of SJ have been there since forever giving life and character to Old SJ. They LITERALLY don't hurt anyone. Save a Gato keeps their numbers controlled and if they aren't doing enough than help them so they can!! There has to be another than to kill them.
1132	Hello. I would like to express my concern for the cats in Old San Juan which are supported by Save A Gato. It has been brought to my attention that there are talks of removing these cats from the area and potentially euthanized them. Please reconsider this as not only do these cats bring great joy to locals and tourists but also they are being given a chance to go to loving homes. I respect Save A Gato for providing and caring for these local cats and giving them a chance. Please give them a chance as well.
1133	Save a Gato is a foundation that has been saving cats non stop for 20 years giving them an opportunity for a better life. These cats are well taken care of and also they do attract visitors to our area. PLEASE STOP this initiative as it will bring very much pain to our whole community and cats will suffer the opportunity of being healthy and living a better life. Please reconsider.
1134	Save a Gato is a foundation that has been saving cats non stop for 20 years giving them an opportunity for a better life. These cats are well taken care of and also they do attract visitors to our area. PLEASE STOP this initiative as it will bring very much pain to our whole community and cats will suffer the opportunity of being healthy and living a better life. Please reconsider.
1135	<p>These cats have been taken care of around the clock for years by an amazing group called Save A Gato— they are all neutered and spayed and fed and given medication- it's basically the best possible outcome for feral cats and should be a model for every city to follow! The cats being there actually ingratiated me more to the area and even prompted me to recommend old San Juan to people who we're looking for a new place to travel to! There's many more people who would love to visit just based on the amazing cats not to mention the other attractions. This is what the area is known for, those cats live in harmony peacefully around the ruins of the fort and other areas. That's what made me actually want to move to Puerto Rico and what gives me hope in a country that is usually disgusting as far as animal welfare, even poisoning animals etc. Wouldn't you want a positive model to exist? Those cats are like a perfect example of how you do things right.</p> <p>Furthermore, to remove any animals that are living in any area, whether you're talking about cats or wolves, the void will always be filled with more. That's because there are food sources like rats in this case that the cats are probably attracted to. The rats are attracted to food on the streets or fallen fruit. So this isn't something that can just be erased. You have entire urban ecosystems that exist just like you would in the Rockies etc. Those are wild ecosystems with Wildlife. This is a smaller more hidden ecosystem with urban animals. These cats are being taken care of exactly in the way they should be.</p>
1136	The proposal mentioned to rid the cats from El Paseo is one of the most ludicrous proposal I've heard. This place has been their home for so many years and they have done nothing to warrant being eliminated. They are being taken care of by the public and organizations like Save A Gato. What should be proposed is funding to continue helping catching them and spaying and neutering them, there are many states who do that and have controlled overpopulation. It's boggles my mind that they rather murder innocent animals than help

Corr ID	Correspondence
	them. I fully and whole heartedly object to the removal (in any way shape or form) of the cats from San Juan.
1137	I fully support Save-A-Gato in their efforts to humanely control through TNR the cat population in Old San Juan (including El Morro), which has actually been an attraction for visitors over the decades and helps control the rat population. I am against the plan removing the cats from what is now their home territory.
1138	<p>Por los pasados 20 años mi familia y yo hemos disfrutado de la compañía de estos gatitos al visitar el Viejo San Juan. Además del atractivo que cautiva la Ciudad Amurallada, esta comunidad es parte de las calles históricas del mismo. Es parte, sin lugar a duda, de su idiosincrasia y así lo demuestra el buen corazón de los visitantes que ayudan a sostener los mismos.</p> <p>A su vez conocemos la labor que realiza "Save a Gato", ante la inacción del Gobierno, como esterilización, alimentación, tratamientos médicos y su fase de adopción, por lo que esta comunidad no constituye un peligro y no están siendo maltratados. Por el contrario, están bien cuidados, por lo que no califican para gatos realengos.</p> <p>Esperamos que la toma de decisión del Gobierno Federal no vaya a afectar el futuro de estos gatos y su medio ambiente, que al fin y al cabo regalan alegría para aquellos que los visitan y la compañía fiel de quienes deciden adoptarlo.</p>
1139	<p>Visiting San Juan last July was a great experience for my husband and I but we both remarked several times that the cats of San Juan made it special. We loved snapping pictures of them and seeking them in the hidden places in the old city. The cats add a special charm that makes that city shine. Much like the polydactyl cats in the Florida keys and the chickens in Hawaii having an animal population that is unique to an area adds to the ambiance. We ended up donating to Save A Gato both during and after our trip because the cats made such a wonderful impression. As a tourist the cats made the trip extra special and we were so glad to have had a chance to meet them. The removal of those felines would be a tragedy, taking away a chance to demonstrate to the world what a wonderful program has been fostered in that beautiful city.</p>
1140	<p>Saludos,</p> <p>Por este medio le pedimos a los parques federales analizar otras soluciones para los gatos en el viejo san juan que no incluyan la eutanazia. Consideramos los gatos parte de nuestra sociedad, además, entendemos no le hacen daño a nadie. Es importante apoyar las organizaciones que se esfuerzan pra vacunar y esterilizar , para así prevenir enfermedades y propapación que ya es un problema. Tambien se les puede dar un apoyo en mantenimiento de las areas del parque para así evitar los malos olores, pero ene general los gatos son limpios y hacen necesidades en tierra, ahora bien, hay que darle mantenimiento a las areas . Se puede contactar refugios en los estados unidos (que no tengan política de poner a dormir) y tambien se puede ayudar en los esfuerzos de adopción en la isla.</p> <p>Se puede donar a las diferentes organziaciones que llevan años dedicandose a los gatos de VSJ o se le puede dar apoyo con personal para que continuen los esfuerzos que llevan a cabo. En fin, los gatos se merecen un trato humano tambien, controlan las ratas y son un atractiva turistico. Además,</p> <p>son nuestros animales y El trato hacia loa animales refleja el tipo de sociedad que somos.</p>
1141	I strongly oppose to the plan to control or get rid of the cats in old San Juan. They are living beings and deserve to roam this land more than we do. They do not bother anything and are

Corr ID	Correspondence
	part of the history of PR. Removing these cats would be inhumane and evil. Please reconsider this plan and allow the great organizations in the area to care for and manage the cat colony. These cats are part of the culture of the city. Please rethink your proposal and find an option that doesn't kill innocent lives.
1142	Please don't remove the cats, they do no harm, and are cared for. If you removed the cats from the only home they know, this would be cruel and inhumane treatment. You can't take a cat out of its environment, that's certain and terrible death. Please please don't do this, the world is watching.
1143	Old San Juan cats are iconic and essential to the city. I shudder to think what Old San Juan would be like without them to do pest control. They are sweet and charming and make visits to Old San Juan extra special. Please don't take them away! Take whatever money was set aside for this project and put it toward TNR.
1144	Please dont hurt them. They are where they need to be. Its important to keep them alive.
1145	Don't put any cats down
1146	We visit San Juan a few times a year via cruise ship. We seek out cruises that include San Juan because we enjoy the wonderful food and culture. However the very first stop we make everytime we visit...is to spend some time with the beautiful kitties. It brings us so much joy to spend time with them and give them as much love as they return to us. We hope someday to be able to adopt one of these amazing cats! Should the kitties be removed, we would no longer seek out cruises with stops in San Juan because we have seen/done most everything you offer. However the kitties are always a new experience...never know if you we see kitties that you recognize from a prior trip or all new ones to love on. We support save a gato with donations, but mainly for all they do to keep the kitties safe, healthy, and loved. Please don't removed these amazing cats. Thank you.
1147	Would it be possible for the NPS to work along side Save a Gato to more efficiently and effectively TNR the free ranging cats? The cats have become a part of the experience of visiting Old San Juan and to eliminate them would be not only heartbreaking, but it would alter what people have come to expect when visiting the Paseo. I believe with more support, Save a Gato would be able to more effectively monitor and TNR the cats, ultimately resulting in their lowered populations. Please save the gatos.
1148	Respaldamos la labor que está haciendo Save a gato. El servicio de Parques Nacionales tiene que ser sensible a las necesidades de esos Gatos y respaldar la labor intensa q realizan los ciudadanos para protegerlos. Deberían de subsidiar a Save a gato para que continúen su maravilloso trabajo
1149	Please don't remove the cats. I so enjoy seeing them when I visit San Juan. They are so much a part of the reason I love to visit. I always make it a point to walk the length of the wall area when I come. It is so peaceful and the beautiful kittys really make it very special.
1150	Removing these cats would be not only a waste of time and resources but a massive loss to the community. What concern does the NPS have with free ranging cats? Why is this a project worth tax payer dollars? There are so many things in our country that could use the funding that is being wasted on such a ridiculous project. Many tourist spots such as Istanbul or Ephesus actually pride themselves on having so many free roaming animals as it adds to the appeal of the location. These cats are already being taken care of by the community and causing no trouble so why waste the time and money "removing" them (which is very obviously just a way to say you'll be euthanizing them). Absolutely disgraceful coming from a department intended to protect our land and resources. I urge you to rethink and use the funds for this project somewhere a difference will actually be made.

Corr ID	Correspondence
1151	<p>There is no need for this. Please</p> <p>People enjoy them, they are fixed and vaccinated. They've never harmed anyone. It makes no sense</p>
1152	<p>Please do not get rid of the cats, they do absolutely nothing wrong, no harm, and everytime I go they do not annoy whatsoever, they move out of your way and dont bother anyone, these are animals that dont bother anyone. I love going to Viejo San Juan and seeing the cats around that area, Im sure all tourists love it as well, I believe neutering/sterilizing them is much better than removing them from the area, its their home too and theyre very well taken care of by Save a Gato, I always see food and water for them and they stay in their areas without ever bothering anyone. Please do what you can so these cats dont get removed from their area in Viejo San Juan, they dont deserve that.</p>
1153	<p>Los gatitos del Paseo del Morro no hacen daño ni dañan el paisaje. Es una colonia de gatos controlada.</p> <p>The cats of Old San Juan does NOT cause any damage or ruin any aesthetic. They deserve to live there. Save the cats!!! It's a controlled cat colony</p>
1154	<p>The cats do not need to be eliminated. What is require is population control through planned sterilizations. Killing the cats is not an option.</p>
1155	<p>Our Old San Juan cats are so much part of the city's enchantment! The Save A Gato organization and volunteers have been taking care and protecting them for years. The sterilization of these felines keeps the population under control so I can't see how their "removal" would be in any way beneficial.</p> <p>Au contraire! We should take example from cities/countries where besides the added attractiveness they serve the purpose of controlling rodents and other plagues. Please take these facts into consideration.</p> <p>I totally oppose the plan of eliminating our beloved cats.</p>
1156	<p>I don't quite understand the logic of the proposed action: you propose to contract (i.e. pay) a company to perform work that is already being done by a 501(c)3 non profit. Save-a-Gato has been doing amazing work for almost 20 years on a shoe-string budget with limited volunteers. Why not make them the primary point of contact and/or advisor for this project? They already have the trust of numerous tourists and citizens of Puerto Rico.</p> <p>In addition, there is no guarantee that this removal will be effective long-term. Pet abandonment is prevalent in Puerto Rico, in large part due to the numerous hurricanes and partially from societal views. None of the 3 proposed phases addresses the sources of the problem: 1. public perception on abandonment, 2. the need to spay/neuter your pet, 3. alternatives if you can no longer take care of a pet.</p> <p>The cat population has increased since 2005 when the Memorandum of Understanding was signed but is due primarily to unspayed/neutered cats that are abandoned. Save-a-Gato TNR's or adopts out a huge number of the cats. The Public Scoping Newsletter mentions repeatedly that cats are non-native and kill wildlife, but this is a problem across the US that can only be solved via outreach to pet owners and the general public.</p> <p>To summarize, I agree the number of cats is a problem. This is something the NPS must address with help from Save-a-Gato. A long-term propaganda campaign focusing on the need</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	to spay/neuter and responsible pet ownership will be most beneficial to reaching the goal of a reduced cat population.
1157	As a frequent visitor and patron of Old San Juan, seeing the well cared of and harmless cats peacefully living there is the highlight of the community. Please do not harm or remove them from the only home they know.
1158	Back in 1994, a very romantic stroll down Paseo La Princesa was interrupted when a rat bit my boyfriend in the ankle. What followed was a near nightmare weekend of hospital visits... we did not go back to La Princesa for years. Then I convinced my now husband to return to el Paseo; and we were greeted by the most amazing group of cats! The experience was so wonderful we ended up adopting a cat from Save a Gato. Mimi is one of (now) four rescues that share our house and make it a home. If Mimi had not been there, our house would not be the happy home it is now. Please allow others to experience the wonder of cats, while keeping the rat population down.
1159	Los gatos de Viejo San Juan ayudan al balance ecológico del área. Siempre han vivido allí desde nuestra historia de fundación Española. Nunca le han hecho daño a nadie. Son cuidados vacunados esterilizados por rescatistas respetables . Debemos elevar nuestro parque patrimonio de los puertorriqueños al nivel evolutivo mental de países como Holanda Turquía q cohabitan y son parte de la atracción turística ecologica. Viejo San Juan sin gatos no es Viejo San Juan. Nuestra historia y atracción turística esta en juego Apoyo a nuestros gatos
1160	We visited Puerto Rico last year and we were so impressed — and also charmed — by the cats of San Juan. It was inspiring to see how a community can chip in to care for the cat population. They make the city feel alive and connected, I can't imagine San Juan without them. The work that Save a Gato does is indelible in supporting these cats, as well. Between them and the caring folks of San Juan these cats seem to thrive so do the people who get to see them in town.
1161	Los gatos embellecen y le dan un atractivo turístico más dinámico al Viejo San Juan. Además, conllevan un significado más allá de concientización animal.
1162	I implore you to please to do not harm any of those cats! they have been spayed and neutered by an organization that focuses around these cats and their wellbeing! These cats control the rat population in Old San Juan, making the streets a little safer to walk around. Thousands have come to the island to spend time with these cats and have had no issue with them. They have been there for years, if anything we are in their territory. I ask of you to please to not harm any of those cats.
1163	PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE!!!! LET THIS ORGANIZATION CONTINUE TO DO ALL OF THE WONDERFUL WORK THEY DO!!!!!!
1164	Estoy en desacuerdo con la eliminacion de los gatos realengos del Viejo San Juan. La eliminacion solo va a permitir paso a otras poblaciones se muden. Si continuamos con CER y el monitoreo de la cantidad y la salud de las colonia se puede disminuir, solo que tomara tiempo. Si alquilan las trampas para gatos a otras comunidades se disminuye el riesgo a que otras poblaciones crezcan y se unan a esta colonia.
1165	Please leave the cats alone and let them live their best lives where their home has been there and survive best in familiar place. That is their home!!!
1166	The most serious and worrying thing is the number of irresponsible people who go and leave them there! Unfortunately the kittens are victims! And now they want to take them out? And where? There are no people who want to adopt. Removing them is not the solution, if the collaboration of the municipality and teamwork with Save a Gato to control the population and impose fines or sanctions on those who abandon cats in the Old San Juan area.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>La solución no es sacarlos, es trabajat en equipo, hacer campañas de consciencia a la población para no abandonar gatos en el area, para esterilizar, los ciudadanos responsables pagamos impuestos para que este tipo de situaciones se controlen efectivamente, no con la salida más fácil.</p> <p>No hay quién adopte a tanto gatito, trabajar en conjunto es la mejor alternativa, No sacarlos.</p> <p>Ellos no le hacen daño a nadie, ni tienen que pagar las consecuencias de los humanos irresponsables.</p> <p>Gracias</p>
1167	<p>I'm a Florida resident who has spent the last three months shooting a documentary with Don Collins Cigars in Old San Juan. I love it here, and one of the things I love most is the cats.</p> <p>Having heard that the NPS was working on solutions to managing the cat population I, like many residents and visitors of the city, became concerned about the in specificity of the statements released and I'm sure many already assumed the worst intentions.</p> <p>Of course, a solution already exists. Save a Gato has been working for more than 15 years to feed, spay and neuter every cat that comes around. On top of that they feed and provide limited medical care to cats that are brought in by residents. They have done a great service to the community of cats and people living in the city.</p> <p>The only problem is that they run on donations and volunteers. Many residents dedicate time to help and many donate cash food and materials for them to work with. It's a lot of work and it's all based in kindness and love for one of the staple communities of Old San Juan.</p> <p>Rather than relocation or euthanasia, I think the best course of action for the NPS to lower the cat population is to put the money into Save a Gato or create a similar spay/neutering center.</p> <p>I hope that whichever way the NPS goes, its humane and maintains the cultural landmark that is the San Juan cats.</p>
1168	<p>Hello, please allow the free-roaming cats to stay in San Juan. They have part of the community for many years and local organizations work to spay/neuter and provide medical care. When I have visited, it is nice to see the community cats wandering around. Thank you</p>
1169	<p>Please do not remove the cats from Old San Juan. Save a Gato has been working tirelessly towards a safe, healthy and sterile cat community for the past 20 years. They like many others worldwide understand that a culling is cruel, unnecessary & completely ineffective at tackling the problem at hand. It's likely this organization is unaware of the vacuum effect with stray cats because this wouldn't be an option if you did. Let me explain, free roaming cats are territorial and can have spaces that range several kilometers/miles. If suddenly there are no cats in an area, others will take over and start the process all over again. The only proper solution is to trap, neuter/spay and return them/find them a home with a caretaker by partnering with Save a Gato and social media. Up to 4,948 kittens can be born from one unsplayed female cat and her offspring in seven years so if you want to "control" a population, spay/neuter is the only option to tackle it effectively. Do you want to be the solution or the one the world looks at as responsible for unnecessary evil culling the beloved old San Juan cats?</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1170	<p>Please allow these beautiful cats to remain in their homes. On our journey to Puerto Rico we visited Old San Juan and these cats were the highlight of our day on top of everything else this beautiful city has to offer. They are extremely well taken care of, the organization, Save a Gato, was present when we were walking through the city. They were making their rounds cleaning litter boxes, providing proper amounts of food, cleaning water bowls and giving them fresh water and giving all of the cats lots of love. These cats are so well cared for and SO LOVED! Not only are they caring for these animals when no one else can or will, but they are helping them find forever homes. I stopped and hung out with the cats for over an hour and they were the sweetest, most loving animals. Some of them even followed us around after I peeled myself away from them. They were very hard to leave, I grew very attached to the cats of Old San Juan. Please allow them to remain and remain with their current care givers within the Save a Gato organization. This organization is VITAL in providing these animals the life's they deserve. They do not bother people, in fact they only bring even more light and joy into the city. The people and cats of Old San Juan have such a huge positive impact on the people of Puerto Rico and the tourists as well. They are a memory I will forever cherish and one I hope to remake when I return to Old San Juan one day. I am deeply requesting that they be allowed to remain as they are. The people of the city deserve the light the cats bring, but more importantly the cats deserve the wonderful care they are given by Save a Gato.</p>
1171	<p>Each time we are visiting family we see the cats, they bring so much joy and are truly part of Viejo San Juan. There are more responsible ways to work with the cats within the environment which Save a Gato has been doing through TNR for 20 years. I urge you to set up a contract for the care of these cats who are now cultural icons of the area!</p>
1172	<p>My opinion about all of this is that it is unfair for all of those cats that have lived all of their lives there and they're defenseless and do no harm. We don't understand why they want to get them out when they should be focusing on bigger problems, like criminality. Also what they say about the tourists not wanting them, I think is a complete lie, because the majority of them, they love cats and they just go to el paseo to see them because they feel like it's an attraction. One of the most essential purposes of cats is that they get rid of rats. Also parents like to take their kids to see those cats. We all feel ashamed about this senseless proposition and Save a Gato and National Parks Service should unite and find an agreement and just let these innocent cats live because they make everyone happy.</p>
1173	<p>I do not agree with killing the cats, but there is an excess of stray cats at Old San Juan. Walking a dog is almost an impossible mission. The cats deserve a loving home, an effort should be made to find people who would adopt them reducing the amount of strayed cats.</p>
1174	<p>Dear NPS, It's very surprising and cruel that you are considering removing cats from Old San Juan. They are spayed and neutered and cared for in a managed colony. They are even a tourist attraction for those of us who visit. Managed colonies have become the way most cities have FREE feral cat control. Mostly women, all volunteers taking care of a problem that you ignored for so long. Now that they have done it so well and for FREE you want to remove the cats? It seems senseless, cruel and lazy on NPS' part.</p> <p>Please think again.</p>
1175	<p>Buen dia para todos!!! Solo para dejar saber lo importante ,para los que amamos los gatos , que se les permita permanecer en ese lugar tan apreciado por los que amamos estos animalitos. Consideren la</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>posibilidad de plagas en nuestra vieja ciudad si ellos no estan. Estos animales nos dan paz en ese entorno. NO agreden y contribuyen al balance del ecosistema erradicando roedores y otra sabandijas. Ademas de ser un atractivo turistico ya que muchos turistas adoptan estos felinos. Gracias por darnos la oportunidad de expresar nuestro parecer y amor por ellos.</p>
1176	<p>These animals deserve their freedom and are a part of the charm that makes up Puerto Rico. Please leave them to remain a part of the beautiful culture</p>
1177	<p>These cats were a fantastic part of the experience of going to Puerto Rico. Save a Gato does a great job of keeping them as a sterile well fed, and clean community. Please do not remove the kitties from their homes.</p>
1178	<p>As an animal lover, it's so heartbreaking to see the government dealing with innocent beings in such an inhumane way. The reason the situation has gotten out of control is due to the neglect they have received for so long. If TNR (trap neuter return) had been implemented from the beginning, the situation would be very different. Instead of using funds to put innocent cats to sleep, use them to implement TNR and feeding stations. Tourists would much rather see that the country cares for animals, than knowing they were killed.</p>
1179	<p>Please do not remove the cats from San Juan. When i came to visit this past summer from north carolina, one of my favorite parts of visiting was seeing all the happy and healthy cats roaming around :) they are all well fed and have water to drink and they seem happy where they are. I learned about Save a Gato and know how hard they work to keep these cats healthy. There was not one stray i saw without a clipped ear, which says a-lot about this organizations efforts. These cats are not harming anyone! Keep them where they are its so cool to see cats everywhere :)</p>
1180	<p>The cats of Old San Juan are part of the town's beauty. They do no harm and the people love them, tourists come to see them. Every time I visit Old San Juan I go to see them. Save a Gato has been working for the past 20 years to feed and sterilize them in order to control the population. Please do not go forth with this plan.</p>
1181	<p>Personally, the cats lazing about were my favorite park of the park. If you remove them, some will undoubtedly not survive the process, and it may be that you need to continue to euthanize cats as they repopulate the area, since there are a fair number of strays throughout the area. Concerns related to rabies should not be included here as vaccination is the most useful tool to prevent the spread of the disease.</p>
1182	<p>Leave the cats. They are members of the community and not hurting anyone. Leave them where they are.</p>
1183	<p>Greetings,</p> <p>The cats living in Old San Juan shouldn't be considered a hazard to the National Park. At the contrary, they have become an attraction to many tourists and locals that visit the area to interact with them. They are healthy, neutralized and well-behaved. Many citizens with the help of the nonprofit organization SaveaGato have been working tirelessly for years to support the community of cats in the area. Yes, COMMUNITY OF CATS because they are part of the community already and loved by the locals. Instead of thinking of euthanasia and getting rid of them, as a powerful organization, the first response should be to help those animals and create a safe environment for them to live within the park. They are living creatures that deserve respect and care just like any other, and they should have the right to live a long and healthy life too.</p>
1184	<p>Please save these cats. Trap, neuter, return works! If we can get all of them then naturally the outdoor cat population will decrease, they will all be healthier and happier. Please be kind to</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	these sweet animals, they deserve a chance at life. There are groups that have worked tirelessly to achieve that, and if they get some more help it can be done! I believe we can come up with a helpful solution that doesn't involve hurting these animals. Please work towards that goal.
1185	Please save the gatos! If sterilized and neutered properly, they do not cause any damage or harm to anyone. They're part of the city and deserve to be there just like us. They mean a lot to the people of Puerto Rico and tourists who visit the island, especially Old San Juan. Thank you
1186	The cats are what make this place so special!! Please keep in mind that for many the cats roaming around is an attraction. Do not get rid of the cats you will lose tourists and thus money
1187	Good afternoon, I'm a native Puerto Rican living in New York I heard about the plan to remove the cats in old San Juan. This is unjust and simply disheartening. I'm a cat lover and these cats have been there forever there blood line runs deeper than you could imagine and i ask to please please do not euthanize these beautiful babies they belong there. Please reconsider removing these beautiful cats as they have a soul just like you do. They belong there and we will continue to fight for them they are voiceless and innocent
1188	Please leave the cats alone I personally come to visit them every time I'm in San Juan. It's a highlight of our trip. They take great care of them. Every time we're there it's crowded over there or we pass people looking for it. It's a great organization.
1189	Please do not remove the cats from the trail in Old San Juan. I go walk there every week and have personally seen how many people (including tourists) enjoy and dont mind the cats. I personally dont think there is a overbearing smell anywhere on the trail. The cats do not harm anyone and have been there for years, they mostly keep to themselves and dont get in the way of the trail. A more organized plan to maintain control of the animals could be developed. Save a gato tries within their resources to diligently help this population and could use more support in keeping their mission.
1190	It's hard to understand this proposal and even the need for it. These cats have been managed for forever, they are cared for TNR'd. They are cared for and part of the history of PR. By taking this out of the local hands of the people it's a mistake and will be mismanaged. PR and these organizations have this under control and doing anything outside of their local organizations is foolish and probably motivated from foolish tourists and lack of understanding.
1191	<p>Please do not remove the cats from this park and please allow SaveAGato to continue to operate in the park.</p> <p>I have traveled to San Juan on vacation in 2014 and again in 2021, and on both occasions, the cats of San Juan, including those in the park and the SaveAGato operation have been highlights of my visit.</p> <p>SaveAGato has operated successfully in the park performing important work for ~20 years. They are highly regarded locally and internationally.</p> <p>The cats themselves provide an added cultural element to the park visit and are beloved by visitors. I have traveled to 60+ countries and have successfully seen cats and humans integrated in a number of locations (Istanbul, Kotor, for example). The cats of old San Juan stand out as another success story. They are well fed, their population is controlled and their health is managed thanks to the tireless effort of volunteers and donors. They are an important cultural attraction themselves that bring joy to those who visit.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Thank you,
1192	One of the best parts of my visit to San Juan was discovering the cats that lived there. I still tell people about it and everyone loves it. Please rescind this proposal, thank you.
1193	My family lives in Bayamón and one of my favorite parts of visiting is going to see the cats at Paeso Del Morro. I buy tickets to take pictures then go visit the kitties. They make the experience more enjoyable and are a huge highlight of the trip. They are not harming anyone and stay out of the way unless someone goes to pet them. They should remain in their home and not relocated
1194	Instead of spending money to catch and kill the cats - because be honest that is the intent, "remove" is a euphemism for kill. That money should be spent to support Save a Gato in its neutering efforts. It would have been more respectful to have an organized meeting.
1195	<p>We are kindly asking for your consideration regarding the removal of the feral colonies in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico.</p> <p>Since many many years ago part of Old San Juan is characterized by those cats wich are also a family among each other and hosts to all visitors welcoming them and being friendly to everybody. They do not represent a threat to noone but instead add value to those people, Puertorricans, who have respect, mercy, and put their hearts in this act of charity. I believe that this is important not only for the cats, that are receiving love and compassion, but is defines us as compassionate, and capable of empathy among this beautiful animals. This acts of kindness describes us and visitors will know the kind of people we are and the great heart we have towards helpless animals. Those people who are volunteering take time out of their busy lives to take care of their wellbeing, feeding them, taking them to the veterinary to spay them, and all of this has been possible by donations from many people and organizations who support this service to that feral community that beautifies that area of Old San Juan. They do not gain anything other than but the satisfaction of doing an act of love. Those cats have inhabited our Old San Juan for so long that they have become part of paintings, photographs and any other form of art that represent the Old San Juan. Removing the cats would be sad for their future, besides it would leave a feeling that something is missing in our landscape and surroundings.</p> <p>We thank you for taking into consideration the feelings of all those who have respectfully made a request. We are appealing to your sense of compassion and sensibility.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p>
1196	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I was a resident of Old San Juan for a year. In that time I never heard a single complaint about the cats of the city or fortress. In fact everyone adored them and and how they are taken care of. There is a delicate balance between mainlanders and locals on the island. I fear if this senseless proposal moves forward it will make life harder for the people who spent decades building positive relationships between Puerto Ricans and mainland Americans. I urge you to listen to the people of Puerto Rico, they truly know what is best for their island.</p> <p>Thank you for your time</p>
1197	<p>Dear NPS,</p> <p>Please reconsider removing the cats from El Morro. They are a tourist attraction and the</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>population can be held in check with TNR. If you do not choose this solution, please put these cats up for adoption both in Puerto Rico and the continental US. These poor creatures deserve a chance at life and are part of the animals that should be taken care of.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
1198	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>The cats old of San Juan should not be removed for various reasons; They are not only known globally, but serve as a key point of tourism in Viejo San Juan. Websites such as trip advisor advertise the a stroll along the Paseo to enjoy the bay views as well as to see the cats. Many tourists want to volunteer in some capacity when they come to Puerto Rico for an extended amount of time, and many seek out would with animals as the language barrier is greatly reduced (we saw many Americans and even those from as far away as Poland volunteer with SAG to feed and help trap cats who needed medical attention). These cats reduce the rodent population in the urban area of OSJ. The cat's classification of an invasive species is far from an ecosystem disruption, again referring to my previous point, they cut down the rodent population. These cats arrival on the island of Puerto Rico can be traced to over 500 years ago, this begs one to infer that the ecosystem has adjusted over the last 50 decades to accommodate this species' existence and needs. To remove them now would create a void that another species would either enter to fill or overpopulate in response to fewer predators.</p> <p>While concern for cat-carried illnesses is understandable, organizations like Save A Gato actively TNR (trap-neuter-release) the cats in Old San Juan, and in particular those along the Paseo del Morro. Part of this process includes these cats receiving their vaccinations and pertinent health care. Save A Gato is limited in what they can accomplish due to lack of government funding (they are completely donation funded). A partnership with a government organization, such as the NPS would fill the gap felt when donations are low.</p> <p>I truly believe the NPS could work in tangent with Save A Gato (and other similar organizations) to expand the TNR efforts to ensure safety and quality experiences of visitors to this World Heritage Site.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration in the preservation of the feline population.</p>
1199	<p>Nosotros deseamos tener la colonia de Save a Gato en el Viejo San Juan Han hecho una gran labor con toda esa colonia por los últimos 20 años y esperamos que sean muchos más .</p>
1200	<p>I've been to old San Juan 5 times so far & one of the highlights of each trip has been seeing the cats. My daughter & I always spend time watching them around the El Morro & other areas. They bring us so much joy. Please continue spaying them but do not remove them.</p>
1201	<p>Do not remove the kitties from El Morro. Those beautiful cats do not harm anyone and people love seeing them when they walk by. LEAVE THE KITTIES ALONE. Save a Gato should stay!</p>
1202	<p>Loved the cats when visiting old town San Juan. Please let them stay there and take care of them.</p>
1203	<p>We need to keep our cats in old San Juan they have been there for years! They do not pose a threat to anyone and our citizens feed them and enjoy their company. They also help with the rodent population. We NEED our CATS of OLD SAN JUAN to STAY it's their HOME!</p>
1204	<p>Hello, I have been to San Juan a number of times. We have adopted 2 cats from Save a Gato and brought them over to live with me here in New Jersey. Both cats were strays that we found near El Morro. Save a Gato helped me trap them, took them to the vet for me, and made sure all of my paperwork was ready to travel. The cats were in perfect health. The cats</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>were friendly and not aggressive at all. We saw them on the street and one was so friendly he came up and let us pet him.</p> <p>This is all to say that the cats in San Juan and at El Morro are well taken care of and loved. They are happy and friendly. They are not a nuisance. If you remove them, the rats and pests that would take over El Paseo will be more of a nuisance than the cats could ever be. In fact, I would probably stop visiting El Paseo and wouldn't want to walk it if there were rats poking their heads out instead of cats. Save the cats! It doesn't make any logical or financial sense to remove them.</p>
1205	<p>It is a disgrace what the government is trying to do to get rid of the cats on Old San Juan. We must respect the life of this animals. They don't bother or even less are a health problem. On the contrary, they help control the rat pest. They are friendly. They are part of the community. We most be the voices they need.</p> <p>Please save the life of this cats.</p>
1206	<p>These cats are a part of the culture and beautiful history of San Juan. They are majestic, wild and beautiful and without them, your city will lose some of its magic. Removing them would be heartbreaking for your locals and tourists. I've seen the respect the locals and cats have for one another. There are ways to improve their quality of life without diminishing them as living creatures who deserve a chance at life.</p>
1207	<p>Hello! I heard about the cats in old San Juan before we visited the island. It was the first stop we made when we got to the island March 2021. The pandemic was still going, we were vaccinated, and had to wear masks but we wanted to visit the cat colony. As much as it pains me to see homeless cats, it made our visit much easier knowing there was a nonprofit helping the cats. When we got back to the states, we became financial supporters of Save a Gato and give monthly to the organization to help the cats.</p> <p>Please do not remove the cats from this area. They are a wonderful asset to old San Juan and make visiting the island much better.</p>
1208	<p>Los gatos merecen ser rescatados, no matados. Ellos no estorban ni son un peligro para la salud de la comunidad. Ellos embellecen con su carisma. Adicional, ayudan a controlar la población de ratas en el Viejo San Juan, lo cual es un problema real que afecta la salud del pueblo. Detengan el proyecto de retirar a los gatos. Hay muchos grupos que se encargan de cuidarlos y de operarlos, de velar que estén bien. Ese trabajo es hermoso. Los gatos son parte de la comunidad y de lo que caracteriza al Viejo San Juan.</p> <p>Salvemos a los gatos!!!!!!!!!!</p>
1209	<p>I am a Puerto Rican who is a licensed veterinarian (DVM) who supports Save A Gato. This organization has done remarkable work for 20 years with very limited resources, from community education and engagement, to TRAP-NEUTER-RELEASE efforts that are paramount for maintaining colony cat populations safe and healthy. Puerto Rico needs more funding for TNR and education, not culling a population of cats that are part of the identity of our island. I IMPLORE YOU, please re-think this and perhaps consider utilizing the resources of your proposal to educate and fund TNR efforts for the cat colonies that are part of the identity of of our Old City of San Juan and our island.</p>
1210	<p>Please don't take the kitties away. They add to the personality of the park. As well I find they afford a certain historic preservation themselves. It is their home.</p> <p>They keep rodent and vermin at bay. They are tended to by their caretakers.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>They also are a tourist attraction. When I went to San Juan I begged my guide to take me to see the cats. Of course I not only spent time with them but also donated.</p> <p>I simply don't see any valid reason for evicting the cats. Especially since they are all spayed or neutered. Cats in a city help to keep it clean.</p>
1211	<p>The cats here should be left alone to the people who wish to help them & they should be stray. They should NOT be killed. They are the culture of San Juan and are a part of history! And all animals deserve to have a life.</p>
1212	<p>These cats are wonderful! Save a gato works tirelessly and so hard to tnr all of the cats and give them the help and care they need. Instead of taking these cats out, help the organization to fight against it. This was due to human error and these people do everything they can to fix others mistakes and help these gorgeous cats. They do their best to get them homes. Ripping them from what they know will not do anything good. Rescues and organization like save a gato need help to do everything as humanely as possible and always with the animals best interests at heart. Talk to them to see what's best. They're natives to the area and work for the cats best interests so they will know what to do! Give them aide instead of taking away all the hard work they've done and will continue to do. The cats help rid pests and give another beautiful characteristic to paseo el morro. Many people would rather see beautiful cats who are peaceful than walk around with rats scurrying at their feet. Give these cats a chance! It's what these rescues do. The cats are crucial to the ecological system, ridding pests, and add a charm that will attract tourists!</p>
1213	<p>Yo me siento Indignada con esta situacion de los gatitos De San Juan. Como he repetido en tantas ocasiones. "San Juan sin los gato pierde su encanto" son parte de nuestra HISTORIA y yo personalmente amo a San Juan pero sin los gatos nada que ver porque como ya dije son su mayor attractive, para mi perderia su encanto.</p> <p>SAVE A GATO hacen un trabajo como nadie y su compromiso es de corazon y estos gato son cuidados, operados y atendidos como nadie lo haria. Save a Gato mi respeto hoy y siempre y REPUDIO LA ACTITUD DE PARQUES NACIONALES Y SU AFAN DE HACER DANO SIN NINGUN MOTIVO JUSTIFICADO.</p> <p>NO A LA MATANZA DE GATOS, RESPETO POR LA VIDA Y MAS AUN POR LOS ANIMALES.</p>
1214	<p>Please do not kill off the cats. The organization Save a Gato does a magnificent job keeping Them spayed and making sure they dont become a problem to Old SJ.</p>
1215	<p>Por qué nos cuesta tanto trabajo respetar la vida? Absolutamente no a la matanza de los animales! Si al manejo responsable de la reproducción de animales callejeros.</p>
1216	<p>My grandparents live in Puerto Rico and I visit twice per year (except in 2020 because lockdown).</p> <p>I am 15 years of age and my parents asked that I do not give my full address and family names due to privacy concerns. But I feel very strongly about this issue. I have been to San Juan many many times, and love El Morro and Castillo San Cristobal. They are living testaments to the unique history of the place. Every time I go, we walk up Paseo de la Princesa because I want to see the cats. Ever since I was a small child, I have gotten very close to these cats, and petted many of them each time. They are noble, tame creatures. The smell from the litterboxes was noticeable only ONCE in all my visits. I know that wind conditions and the timing of the last litterbox cleanup are important factors, but it is amazing that with all these cats, and how strong the smell of their feces normally is, it is still kept under control.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>I read your proposal and found it severely lacking. First of all, the parks personnel pretends to enter the scene only NOW, after over a decade that the people have taken care of the felines with no help from you, and disrupt their operations? Sounds like a complete take over.</p> <p>Second, the area in the San Juan islet is not habitat for endemic species. I even had my AP Biology class look it over, and we even asked a local expert. Where most cats hang out is not even an area of dense foliage. It is more shrubs and bushes, with a few large trees nearby (which I doubt most cats can climb) and visitors will easily spot more damaging, invasive species (like the large green iguanas) than vulnerable wildlife. That argument might work elsewhere, but not here.</p> <p>Third, I don't know if the situation is worsening now, but if people are abandoning more cats in the area maybe more surveillance is needed to avoid that. Heck, more surveillance is probably needed anyway, because my aunt won't even take us out after dark anymore for fear of crime and violence. So yes, help prevent animal abandonment which will stop the colony from growing.</p> <p>Fourth, please work with, and direct your monetary and personnel resources to the people already working hard to make a difference. I read they are called Save a Gato? Great name, and a possible great partnership if you really listen to them.</p> <p>This is a great opportunity to establish a flagship, successful cooperation which you can later promote and boast about. Change won't happen overnight, and the beginning will be hard but the rewards will be sweet in the long run.</p> <p>If you round up the cats and "eliminate the nuisance", I and my school (we are planning a school trip to PR next year) will not visit any of your sites. It is very unfortunate, and we will miss out, but I feel very strongly about this and my mother is on the planning committee. We will probably go to Vieques, tour the Capitol explore the turtle conservation project and help out in an animal shelter instead - there are plenty of things to see and do in PR even without National Park Service sites. My family also won't renew our National Parks yearly membership.</p>
1217	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am shocked and saddened by the news of a potential plan to remove the beloved cats of Old San Juan. The work, exceptional results and dedication of Saveagato is known and admired throughout the entire country and serves as a model to all animal organizations. In addition, the cats of the old Town are the main focal point of visiting the city and removing them would tarnish the image of the city worldwide and have a drastic impact on tourists coming to the island.</p> <p>Thank you for reconsidering the proposal and acknowledge one of the world class organizations and its contributions to San Juan</p>
1218	<p>Please do not remove the cats. They are well cared for and this has been their home for years. Over population of domestic cats is a man made problem and it is being well handled. When I visited in 2019 the area was very clean and it was obvious the cats were well cared for. Please reconsider your decision.</p>
1219	<p>Please remove the cats, they poop everywhere on the path, and it's not sanitary.</p>
1220	<p>Please don't move the cats from their home in the streets of old San wine where they're well taken care of period thank you!</p>
1221	<p>leave the cats alone!!!!</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1222	<p>Please do not remove the cats. When we visit while cruising, we make sure to visit the cats and enjoy seeing them. Save-a-Gato does a tremendous job at caring for the cats and we support what they do.</p> <p>Thanks</p>
1223	<p>ENGLISH VERSION;</p> <p>I've lived almost all my life in Old San Juan. Since I was little, I have observed the vast quantity of cats that live there. I always remember the times I used to visit where the Save a Gato organization is located and the "Paseo del Morro" area. Over time, these cats have become an essential part of our community. There are many tourists that visit Old San Juan in search of the vast quantity of cats that live here. With this in mind, I believe these animals have become an important part of the legacy that is Old San Juan. And yes, I do believe that the National Park Service is correct in wanting to control the cat population. However, I believe it is important to know and consider that over time, these cats have been slowly been forming a part of our culture. Save A Gato is doing everything in their power to control and maintain these animals. Therefore I propose the following solution: The National Park Service should find a middle ground with Save A Gato, to help them manage these animals. It is important to also mention how these animals do not pose a threat to our community. They are not wildlife, rather domestic animals that have lived in Old San Juan for years. Save A Gato is in charge and has successfully vaccinated/maintained these animals healthy in addition to having a sterilization campaign for many years. For this reason, I don't see the contradiction with leaving the animals in their habitat and helping Save A Gato maintain them. I am a 3rd year student at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus. With the vast knowledge I have obtained in my three years of college education I was able to analyze the current situation and humbly ask you to reconsider your decision regarding the removal of the cats in the "Paseo del Morro" area. Thank You.</p> <p>SPANISH VERSION:</p> <p>He vivido casi toda mi vida en el Viejo San Juan. Desde pequeño, he observado la población de gatos que hay en nuestro islote. Siempre recuerdo mucho las veces que visitaba el área donde se ubica la organización de Save a Gato y el paseo del morro. Con el tiempo, estos animales se han convertido en una parte esencial de nuestra comunidad. Muchos turistas hasta llegan al Viejo San Juan, en búsqueda de la vasta población de gatos que hay. Aun así, pienso que estos animales son un factor importante ya que forman parte del legado que es el Viejo San Juan. Y ciertamente sí, el Servicio Nacional de Parques tiene razón en que hay muchos gatos en el área del paseo del morro. Pero, a pesar de esta situación, deberían tener en cuenta que estos animales ya son como ya mencione, parte de nuestra cultura y el legado que hay en el Viejo San Juan. Sería un error removerlos de su habitat natural. Ya la organización de Save A Gato está haciendo todo lo posible por mantener y controlar esta población de gatos. Por lo tanto, propongo la siguiente solución: Que el servicio Nacional de Parques ayude a las personas de Save a Gato a controlar el manejo de esta especie. Cabe resaltar que estos animales no son de índole salvaje, al contrario son animales domésticos que han vivido por años y no son un peligro para nuestra comunidad. La organización ya mencionada se encarga de mantener estos animales saludables, colocándoles las vacunas necesarias y más importante, esterilizando los gatos. Por lo tanto, no veo contradicción a porque no ayudar a Save A Gato, quienes con tan poco recurso logran sobrepasar las dificultades enfrentadas en el mantenimiento de estos gatos. soy estudiante de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Río Piedras. Con el conocimiento adquirido en dicha institución, analicé la situación que ocurre y les pido que por favor no continúen con el acto propuesto de remover a los gatos del Paseo del Morro en el Viejo San Juan. Gracias.
1224	Do not move the cats. They are part of the place and taken care of, it would be an act of cruelty.
1225	Please do not harm the cats of Old San Juan. They are a excellent resource to control rats and other plagues. They are sterilized and are an enjoyable tourist entertainment and don't harm anyone. Be human and consider these beautiful creatures lives. Please they are the community pets. Have a good day.
1226	Please allow Saveagato to continue their good work. We visit their place whenever we visit Old San Juan. Street cats won't stop being born and we don't notice the town being overrun by cats. Saveagato appears to be working by spaying and neutering cats and providing vet care. Thank you.
1227	I would like to comment on the proposal to eliminate free-roaming cats around Old San Juan. I believe this will be a horrendous programed elimination of innocent animals that provide a diverse wildlife in Old San Juan. Cat populations are part of our modern realities and we cannot play with the mass elimination of any animal population. Who gave anyone the right to decide what animals lives and which do not? It is not up to the human people, nor the government or any agency to decide on population control of any living being. These animals provide control of plagues, and do not harm the people of Old San Juan, tourist nor locals. Suffice it to say that to eliminate this colony, you eliminate a diverse population of wildlife on the Island. We may not be as pretentious as to believe we have any right to disturb the growth and well-being of any animal population, disrupting diversity, and the beautiful fauna of our Island. Know that there are many who think as I do, who frown upon this intrusion and deliberate attempt to eliminate an entire population of flourishing cats just because they are "inconvenient" as a tourist attraction.
1228	National Park Service, Please keep the cats of Old San Juan. They are a major tourist attraction. A little bit like "Where's Waldo" but not as difficult. Save a Gato does amazing work with TNR & amp; adoptions where & amp; when possible. Would you consider helping the volunteers who are already there by providing supplies & amp; funding for the TNR program instead of removing the cats? I volunteer when I'm there which is only once a year but it's amazing to me how well they do with so little. The island has lost so much to hurricanes & amp; earthquakes, please don't become the human equivalent of a natural disaster by taking away one of the most joyful attractions of Viejo San Juan. Sincerely,
1229	The free-ranging cats of San Juan are a delight to me and my family when we come visit, and have been nothing but friendly in our experience with these cats. My father grew up on the island, and lived in La Fortaleza with his siblings as a child when my great-grandfather, Roberto Sánchez Vilella, was in office. I argue that these free roaming cats are a part of Puerto Rican culture due to their long-lasting presence on the island. Visitors and tourists who may have poor experiences with these cats may be due to their ineffectiveness to be respectful of the cats and their boundaries. While there is a reality that cats may harbor illness that could be passed to humans, there are measures to be taken that do not fall under the

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>extreme of euthanizing the entire colony. There should be legal ramifications to residents who abandon their cats at this colony, as well as to tourists who do not interact nicely with the cats resulting in an injury. People are not above animals, we share this Earth and must protect one another AND the environment.</p>
1230	<p>How can you be so cruel to the cats of Old San Juan? It is their home. These cats are beloved and so meaningful to the local community and world community. How can you treat them as if their lives don't matter? Save A Gato has been successful and working tirelessly for the past 20 years to establish a healthy and sterilized cat population. You should be setting a precedent of kindness, compassion and respect for these cats.</p>
1231	<p>Please don't do this, cats in old San Juan has been one of my favorite reasons to visit. Please.</p>
1232	<p>I am a Puerto Rican who currently lives in Los Angeles. Every time I go back to my family in San Juan, I look forward to the sweet and harmless kittens that roam the streets of Viejo San Juan.</p> <p>Save-a-Gato has been working for the past 20 years to help keep cats healthy, neutered/spayed, and under control in Puerto Rico. Not many countries can say they have an organization as efficient as Save-a-gato.</p> <p>The work they do is impressive because it is not only helpful for the cats but the environment too. Cats have a history of protecting cities from vermin and potentially dangerous diseases. A lot of cities, like Rome for example, welcome cats as they are harmless and contribute to the natural environment and ambiance of the city.</p> <p>Save-a-gato is an important part of Puerto Rico. Locals and tourists love the cats, and Save-a-gato is willing to care for them. Respectfully, I do not believe that removing cats within Paseo Del Morro will help the city in any way, especially during these times of covid and financial unrest.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
1233	<p>Hello there, Please do not remove the cats. They have done nothing wrong and are a great attractor for local tourists, I have planned to visit the cats of Old San Juan one day, but if they are removed that will not be possible.</p>
1234	<p>Por favor, no se lleven a los gatitos del Viejo San Juan. El Hogar Saveagato se dedica precisamente a la protección de ellos y las personas gozan de los gatitos cada vez que van los turistas. Ellos son angeles y no merecen ser eutanizados ni trasladados. Por favor ayuden a los gatitos!</p> <p>Gracias!</p>
1235	<p>I met the volunteer group Save A Gato when visiting Puerto Rico earlier this year and were thrilled with their efforts to neuter and spay, as well as care for and adopt out the cats to loving families. As a cat lover, the cat population was a draw for me as a tourist, and is one of the things I remember and cherish most about my trip to PR, but I can also understand the issue of cats being a threat to local wildlife. I believe that volunteer efforts demonstrated by Save a Gato are the best solution to reduce future cat populations and get as many cats off the streets as possible. Many people, including myself, are willing to donate to assist the volunteers.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1236	<p>Llevo unos 4 años como rescatista independiente en el pueblo de Carolina y algo que me tomó muy poco tiempo aprender es que la forma de controlar la sobre población de gatos en las distintas partes de nuestra isla no es eliminandolos. La forma correcta es haciendo TNR (Trap - Neuter - Return) manteniendo las colonias sanas. El equipo de Save a Gato ha hecho esto y más con los gatos comunitarios del Viejo San Juan. Han invertido mucho tiempo, esfuerzos y dinero para lograr su labor.</p> <p>Es increíble que un trabajo que se hace desinteresadamente solo en pro del bienestar animal se vaya a ver afectado de esta forma. Por favor, entiendan que eliminandolos solo van a afectar la situación y vendrán más o las personas que no les importa nada abandonarán más gatos en la zona y esto será contra productivo. Uno de los atractivos del VSJ son los gatos, al igual que como hay un parque de las palomas, así debe haber un espacio seguro donde se respeten las vidas de estos felinos.</p>
1237	<p>We request NPS to not go any further with the plan of removing the cats from Old San Juan. Although for many they may be seen as a health threat, they are not. The majority of the OSJ cats have been in TNR programs for more than 20 years. Organizations like Save a Gato have taken the responsibility of controlling the cat population in the area, caring for them when sick and providing food for them. Cats create nature balance in those areas. They eat pests like cockroaches, flies and most importantly rats. Without them San Juan would be even more dirtier than it is right know.</p> <p>Also, no animal should be harmed by this plan. They all deserve a space in our Island and as a living being, they deserve respect and love.</p>
1238	National Parks Service is an invasive non-native
1239	All lives matter. Be more human and less monsters. We love those cats!
1240	<p>Reasons the cats should stay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -They add to the charm -Tourist attraction -They are a harm to no one -Natural pest control -They harm no one but pests -Charm -Mental health of caretakers and neighbors. Cats are a comfort to most.
1241	<p>Things I've never heard people complain about San Juan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cats <p>Things I hear people complain about constantly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Trash -Pot holes -Plastic waste
1242	<p>I would like to start by saying that I'm not Puerto Rican, but I love traveling to the island, and exploring all corners of it. I've traveled there on multiple occasions in the last couple of years, and my wife and I always make a stop at Old San Juan. Although the island is beautiful itself, undoubtedly the cats that surround the island gives it that "homey" feeling. Nothing like having an ice cream looking at the sunset, while petting one of the beautiful cats that</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>graciously roam the streets.</p> <p>They've never been disruptive, nor have they ever been aggressive towards us. On the contrary, I've always seen the humans make the first approach towards them.</p> <p>They seem healthy enough considering that they are mainly strays. I thank Save A Gato for spaying and neutering them, and those who volunteer to feed them as often as possible.</p> <p>I urge you to please reconsider your proposal of relocating them.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
1243	<p>The cats of El Morro are a treasure. Since their arrival on Spanish ships, they have enhanced the experience at El Morro. To remove them would be to dismantle the history, culture, and atmosphere of such a monument. It is an abhorrent and lazy attempt at solution to act with such brash cruelty. Consider the innocent lives in these animals, and the magic they bring to the landmark with their presence. The feline population of El Morro makes for a world renowned destination.</p> <p>While overpopulation among cats and dogs alike is a significant issue for the island of Puerto Rico, the solution is not to euthanize this specific group. Instead, the best option is to dedicate time, energy, and funds to the sterilization of the cat/dog population of the island. The NPS should provide education and resources to the residents of the island to have lasting solution. Euthanizing this population is not an effective solution. Residents of the island will continue to drop unwanted and intact animals in this region, completely negating the act of the NPS and bringing the situation right back to where it began.</p> <p>By supporting organizations that already do this work, or developing their own initiatives, NPS can manage the feline population of El Morro to ensure their health, longevity, and reasonable population. This benefits the island, landmark, and does not stain the reputation of NPS.</p>
1244	<p>I have several questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has anyone at the Park Service ever considered joining in the efforts of known and proven solutions already implemented by groups like Save a Gato and other resources? The resources can make a serious difference to save the lives of cats and be humane. 2. I want to ask why this is being proposed here when, for example, a war-torn country like Syria has a serious rescue/primarily for gatos. 3. Has it been considered that cats are an excellent opportunity for tourism? Like in Rome and Istanbul... <p>Thank you!</p> <p>P.S. I flew in from Texas for this meeting and must see hope for the gatitos.</p> <p>Gracias,</p>
1245	Nature abhors a vacuum

Corr ID	Correspondence
1246	<p>A quien pueda interesar:</p> <p>Gracias a la gran organización de Save a Gato, los gatitos del Viejo San Juan han podido vivir una vida sana y segura, así formando parte de la comunidad acogedora del Viejo San Juan. De todos los animales realengos en Puerto Rico, se puede decir con certeza que la comunidad de gatos del Viejo San Juan es de las pocas comunidades de animales callejeros que son cuidados, alimentados, esterilizados, medicados y atendidos diariamente, gracias a la labor de la organización previamente mencionada sin fines de lucro. Esta comunidad de gatos no solo es importante porque son seres vivos, sino también porque son las mascotas de todo el vecindario; estos gatos ya tienen casa, y eliminarlos sería arrebatarle al vecindario de sus mascotas. Realmente, son 'callejeros' de la forma más técnica, pues la mayoría tienen nombres, tienen personas que velan por cada uno de ellos y esperan verlos todos los días. Sacarlos de su hogar sería un acto cruel, innecesario y erróneo; se estaría desplazando un enorme pedazo de la comunidad y del corazón del VSJ. Sumado a esto, ¿por qué desplazar a una comunidad de gatos que ya cuenta con el cuidado necesario para prevenir enfermedades y sobrepoblación? ¿Por qué tratar de 'arreglar' un 'problema' que ya se solucionó hace años? Como dije anteriormente, en Puerto Rico hay un sinnúmero de comunidades de animales callejeros que no se atienden en lo absoluto, en cambio, esta comunidad de gatos ya cuenta con veterinarios y un enorme grupo de voluntariados fijos. Además, ¿por qué invertir dinero en remover a estos gatos cuando es más económico seguir permitiendo que esta organización se ocupe de ellos a libre costo para el gobierno? Los gatos del VSJ forman parte su historia, y eliminar a estos gatos sería igual de absurdo e inefectivo que eliminar a todas las palomas del Parque de las Palomas. Por favor, permitan la continuación de la labor ardua, eficaz y consistente de Save a Gato; dejen a los gatitos quietos.</p>
1247	<p>A quien pueda interesar:</p> <p>Gracias a la gran organización de Save a Gato, los gatitos del Viejo San Juan han podido vivir una vida sana y segura, así formando parte de la comunidad acogedora del Viejo San Juan. De todos los animales realengos en Puerto Rico, se puede decir con certeza que la comunidad de gatos del Viejo San Juan es de las pocas comunidades de animales callejeros que son cuidados, alimentados, esterilizados, medicados y atendidos diariamente, gracias a la labor de la organización previamente mencionada sin fines de lucro. Esta comunidad de gatos no solo es importante porque son seres vivos, sino también porque son las mascotas de todo el vecindario; estos gatos ya tienen casa, y eliminarlos sería arrebatarle al vecindario de sus mascotas. Realmente, son 'callejeros' de la forma más técnica, pues la mayoría tienen nombres, tienen personas que velan por cada uno de ellos y esperan verlos todos los días. Sacarlos de su hogar sería un acto cruel, innecesario y erróneo; se estaría desplazando un enorme pedazo de la comunidad y del corazón del VSJ. Sumado a esto, ¿por qué desplazar a una comunidad de gatos que ya cuenta con el cuidado necesario para prevenir enfermedades y sobrepoblación? ¿Por qué tratar de 'arreglar' un 'problema' que ya se solucionó hace años? Como dije anteriormente, en Puerto Rico hay un sinnúmero de comunidades de animales callejeros que no se atienden en lo absoluto, en cambio, esta comunidad de gatos ya cuenta con veterinarios y un enorme grupo de voluntariados fijos. Además, ¿por qué invertir dinero en remover a estos gatos cuando es más económico seguir permitiendo que esta organización se ocupe de ellos a libre costo para el gobierno? Los gatos del VSJ forman parte de él tanto como sus adoquines, y eliminar a estos gatos sería igual de absurdo e inefectivo que eliminar a todas las palomas del Parque de las Palomas. Por favor, permitan la continuación de la labor ardua, eficaz y consistente de Save a Gato; dejen a los gatitos quietos.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1248	<p>Saludos, quiero dejar saber mi apoyo a la organización Save a Gato. He visitado el Viejo San Juan sólo para ir a ver a los gatos y su área. Están bien cuidados, alimentados y esterilizados. No se observan áreas descuidadas por causa de los gatos ni por causa de la organización. Para mi es importante velar por el bienestar de los gatos y que estén seguros. La labor que ha hecho la organización durante años para con los felinos y la comunidad donde se encuentran es una admirable y digna de emular. Porfavor, no hechen a los gatos, no hechen a la organización ni permitan que los esfuerzos de la organización por los gatos y la comunidad hayan sido en vano. Los gatos no molestan, no han causado daño, no afean ni han puesto en riesgo nada en el lugar. Mi apoyo es para que se queden allí y continúen siendo atendidos. Muchas gracias por su atención.</p>
1249	<p>Just do a little research. How is it that the people here know more about why this plan isn't viable? Aren't you supposed to be solving the problem? A simple google search will show you information about the vacuum effect. When a colony is removed, it leaves the environment in perfect conditions for a new colony to establish itself. Even worse, an unspayed colony that will grow larger than the previous. In my opinion, removing the cats, even though it won't work, will discourage locals and tourists alike to support the parks. Also, just do a historic search, cities and ruins have always belonged to cats and the NPS is simply not able to change it.</p>
1250	<p>What works in other parks doesn't apply to every park. Respect the culture, history, and heritage of AJ.</p> <p>Use funding that would go to killing the cats to funding TNR at Save a Gato.</p> <p>Listen to the local people. Hear them!</p>
1251	<p>As part of my weekend exercise routine, I walk through El Morro. The best part of my walk is to see all the beautiful and friendly cats I meet along the way.</p> <p>I always see volunteers of Saveagato organization taking care of their needs. These cats are relaxed and happy. They are not afraid of the people walking by because they feel safe and at home. They live in a wonderful place and do not bother anyone.</p> <p>I would feel terribly sad if these cats are taken away from their home.</p> <p>I know I speak on behalf of a lot of people when I plead to Let them stay.</p>
1252	<p>Cats came to old San Juan before any of us. How dare we kick them out of their home. Work with organizations like Save a Gato. Help them so they can keep doing the work they have been doing for almost two decades.</p>
1253	<p>The cats of Old San Juan are a fixture and provide valuable service to the area. These cats help reduce the rodent population which would explode without the presence of these cats. Rodents being communicable diseases, cats do not. Management of cat populations through TNRM (trap, neuter, return, manage) is an effective strategy that meets the needs of the Old San Juan community. Those that perform this amazing public service, at no cost to the public, are the experts here. NPS should be defaulting to their recommendations.</p> <p>The organizations doing TNRM will have to manage the cat population with or without NPS intervention. Removing the cats doesn't remove the cats. Cats enter an area because there is a sufficient food source (see above= rodents) so what will happen is that if the cats are removed, the rodent population will increase and even more cats will move in, cats that are not being managed and they will reproduce more cats.</p> <p>TNRM is the ONLY effective and practical solution here. NPS would see success in the</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>management of the beloved cats of old an Juan by providing resources to the organizations doing this incredible and important work for the community.</p> <p>Thank you, 25 years of successful TNRM experience in 5 different states</p>
1254	<p>Imperialist colonizer proposed to come in and apply your federal policies in a one size fits all way on an island whose residents (that includes the cats) have been here longer than you, the NPS, or the US Government.</p>
1255	<p>As a tourist, one of my absolute favorite things to do in Old San Juan is getting to see the historic and beloved community of cats residing in Paseo Del Morro. There's truly nothing like it and it's such a unique attraction in the city. It's completely enchanting to see these cats existing freely, clearly loved by their community, and witnessing first-hand the heartfelt dedication to their welfare.</p> <p>I do agree that the cat population needs to be managed, but to completely remove these cats from the area would be absolutely devastating.</p> <p>I have a lot of thoughts regarding this proposal and the points mentioned within it, as many are highly contradictory to each other and clearly illustrate the reasons why it is in desperate need of revision.</p> <p>I'd first like to address the four points listed in the proposal under the heading "Why Is TNR Not Working at the Park?";</p> <p>1. "TNR only works in a closed system, and an exceptionally high rate of individuals within a population needs to be sterilized for TNR to be successful."</p> <p>If this is the case, then shouldn't the first phase of this new proposal be to attempt to sterilize the current population of cats? Why would the proposal suggest jumping straight to the removal, and likely euthanasia, of these cats when it plainly states that TNR is successful if done correctly?</p> <p>I strongly suggest visiting https://humanepro.org/page/community-cats-scientific-studies-and-data and reading the studies on TNR vs trap and remove (culling), which is what the proposal currently suggests. It has been proven time and time again that TNR is more cost effective in the long run, more humane, and more effective than culling.</p> <p>2. "New cats come into the colony from other populations. Though some cats may stay within one population, it is typical for free-ranging cats to travel among populations."</p> <p>As the proposal is currently written, I fail to see where it is planned to avoid culling these other populations. Is the plan to indiscriminately remove any and all cats encountered?</p> <p>Regardless of that, there is countless scientific research that strongly suggests population control schemes such as the one proposed do not work in the long term.</p> <p>The Vacuum Effect, named in reference to the latin-derived horror vacui, or plenism, and commonly "nature abhors a vacuum", is a phenomenon scientifically recognized</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>worldwide. This effect is observed across many animal species, including cats, and essentially states that when a space is emptied, nature will fill it.</p> <p>If the cats in Paseo Del Morro are removed along with the feeding stations currently in place, the area is still resource-rich and will inevitably attract cats from neighboring areas. The proposal acknowledges that there are other neighboring populations of cats outside of the targeted population in Paseo Del Morro. While removal of the cats currently residing in Paseo Del Morro will decrease the population, this will only be temporary and it is only a matter of time before these neighboring populations move into the area.</p> <p>Again, the proposal acknowledges that there are other populations of cats outside of the targeted population in Paseo Del Morro that are close enough to prevent the Paseo Del Morro population from being completely isolated. There is no question that these other cats will move in and the population will rebound quickly. What then?</p> <p>3. "Cats may also be abandoned in areas where volunteers feed them, expecting the cats to be safe."</p> <p>Frankly, I found this is to be one of the more shocking statements in the proposal. It is an unfortunate and unavoidable fact of life that animals are far too often abandoned. In Puerto Rico, Act No. 154-2008 states that the abandonment of an animal is a fourth-degree felony, but that doesn't prevent animals from being abandoned.</p> <p>Is the NPS advocating against the care of abandoned cats?</p> <p>4. "In a population that is not isolated, such as the one at the park, TNR is not as effective."</p> <p>Again, the proposal mentions that the population at Paseo Del Morro is not isolated. Which, true, makes TNR less effective - which is only compounded when done on a smaller scale.</p> <p>But, as I mentioned in my response to point 2, the fact that this population is not isolated means that the suggested action of removing cats from this location can only lead to the Vacuum Effect, which will prove all efforts to be completely fruitless.</p> <p>In addition to those four points, I want to address the agreement the NPS entered with Save a Gato in 2005, which is repeatedly mentioned throughout the proposal. Save a Gato is the ONLY non kill shelter exclusive for cats in Puerto Rico. Everything they do is completely funded by donations and volunteer work. With this in mind, it really seems that the agreement was designed for them to fail at the goal of removing all cats from the park.</p> <p>For starters, removing all of the cats should have never been the goal in the first place, but rather to reduce the population to an agreed-upon, reasonable level while still supporting the historic and well-known colony of cats. But even still, a complete decrease in population was such a lofty ambition to place on a community organization without providing enough assistance to support them in achieving that goal.</p> <p>TNR requires time, effort, and most importantly funding. If the NPS was truly interested in humanely reducing the Paseo Del Morro cat population, then the necessary funding would be</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>provided to accomplish that. For example, perhaps the NPS would "contract a professional organization or agency" to aid in the TNR effort. Why is it that these resources are only available when it comes to completely removing the cats from the area?</p> <p>Another inconsistency within this proposal is the stated issue of "wildlife and wildlife habitat". The proposal states that even with feeding stations, cats "are indiscriminate in what they kill, and they are often surplus killers, not always eating what they kill. [...] The impacts of free-ranging cats on wildlife are well documented and are likely occurring at the park";</p> <p>There is no evidence provided aside from the suspicion that these impacts are "likely occurring at the park", but I fail to see the positive impact that the second phase of the proposal, which is removing all feeding stations, would have on this issue.</p> <p>As I previously mentioned, the removal of cats from the park will only be temporary due to the Vacuum Effect. With no designated feeding stations, it seems quite logical to assume that any hungry cats in the area will now have no choice but to survive off the wildlife in the area, in addition to their usual indiscriminate killing.</p> <p>Finally, I must point out what makes the proposal as written completely unfeasible, which isn't even addressed at any point within it.</p> <p>How is this NPS contracted "professional organization or agency (removal agency)" planning to distinguish a cat part of the colony which is to be removed, and a person's pet? Puerto Rico does not require that pet cats be microchipped. Many pet cats are allowed to roam outside their home. Or perhaps someone's indoor-only cat has escaped. There's a lot of different factors to consider here.</p> <p>All potential strategies to remove the cats that are listed in the proposal could easily affect a person's pet cat. And it would be naive to think that the "removal" in this proposed action will not result in euthanasia for a number of these cats. Lethal cat control schemes such as the one currently proposed are not only cruel, but ineffective - and, as I'm sure the NPS is realizing with all the feedback regarding this proposal, wildly unpopular in the community. And on top of all that, it is extremely likely that someone's beloved pet could be mistakenly removed and/or euthanized.</p> <p>It is truly disheartening to think that given all the scientific evidence and research which demonstrates that the removal, and likely euthanasia, are completely ineffective population control tactics - that the NPS would follow through with this approach.</p> <p>I can only hope that the public's concerns, including my own, are heard by the NPS during this planning phase and the necessary changes are made to the proposal to reach a solution that is both scientifically effective and morally sound.</p>
1256	<p>Why have you not helped to raise money to help Save a Gato? (Such as donation boxes inside El Morro with info about how Spanish brought cats.) Are you willing to?</p> <p>People come here on vacation often, naming their favorite cats, coming back and looking for the same cats. I see tourists taking photos even with bags of cat food daily. Can you help with hiring vets (like Spay-a-thon, a known traveling organization) to help? Will you?</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>The cats are on the outside wall where people love to walk their children to see cats and name them. The cats are cared for and are put revolution for fleas.</p> <p>Just a warning; Puerto Ricans love finding reasons to come together and protest. I don't think that will look very good in front of El Morro.</p>
1257	<p>Financially speaking, the "humane removal" of cats in old San Juan wouldn't be a smart move. This will become a yearly/ongoing process - instead use the funds to aid TNRs and voluntary programs.</p>
1258	<p>Los gatos son parte de la cultura del Viejo San Juan y todo Puerto Rico.</p> <p>TNR is the only REAL and humanitarian solution.</p> <p>The process of TNR works and should be more affordable for the locals.</p> <p>A cat sanctuary would raise tourism and protect the cats.</p> <p>Save a Gato should be helped and protected.</p>
1259	<p>Save a gato from San Juan, PR. Cats in San Juan, PR are under control. They are sterilized, well fed, overall, with good care. San Juan mayor, Mr. Romero see them as a pest, when they are not. Even tourists enjoy them at their visit. Killing these animal is an act of cruelty that in fat won't solve nothing.</p>
1260	<p>I enjoy running in this area and watch ths cats and pet them all the time , they bring so much joy to this area. Save a gato has done an incredible job taking care of these cats. I will like to know what are National Parks going to do with these cats ? Are they gonna put them in adoption or kill them? These cats are part of this area and they do no harm at all to contrary they make these area so special and attractive to tourists. I hope that National Parks do something sensible to these poor cats that do no harm to this area. Sabe a gato have been doing an incredible job taking care of these cats with no help from the government maybe Nationa Parks should work with them to help with this colony of cats.</p>
1261	<p>No es necesario eliminar las colonias de gatos de Viejo San Juan. Save a Gato hace un increíble labor por el bien estar de esta población y de la comunidad. Los gatos controlan las plagas como ratas y cucarachas del casco urbano. Además que no son amenaza para nosotros. En cambio ya son parte del pintoresco pueblo y atraen turistas al área. Por favor, no le hagan daño a los gatitos sanjuaneros.</p>
1262	<p>Hello! I am writing to ask you to consider allowing the kitty population at Paseo Del Morro to stay in their homes. They are loved by locals and visitors, very well taken care of by volunteers. Save A Gato is an amazing group of people and these kitties deserve to live a happy and healthy life in their home. Please do not remove them!!</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
1263	<p>Old San Juan is a tourist area where visitors delight in seeing Caribbean culture. Culling stray cats does not represent me as a Puerto Rican citizen. It is a mistreatment of cats, which only help to hunt mice and other rodents. they are living beings. If you are so interested in getting the cats out of this area, look for shelters where you can give them a new opportunity.</p>
1264	<p>The cats of Old San Juan are a tourist attraction and part of the culture. "Removing" them from their home would be unnecessary and cruel. Please continue working with Save A Gato to manage, reduce, and eventually eliminate the colony through TNR.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1265	Thank you for receiving public comments. I believe that the presence of the cats in the park is an asset, creating a unique, if unofficial, special tourist attraction. My family was delighted and plan to return to the park on our next trip to PR, more for the cats than for the ocean views and old forts. I would strongly recommend the No-Action alternative with a enhanced continuation of the TNR program to keep the population under control.
1266	I had the honor of volunteering at Save A Gato in August and currently TNR in los angeles and TNR WORKS!!!! The cats do no harm to anyone or the environment. Save A Gato steps in and takes good care of them and people like me donate. It would be detrimental to lose the cats. And Old San Juan would be overrun with rats.
1267	<p>Dear NPS</p> <p>I'll keep this brief. The cats of old San Juan are part of the culture of the place. People come to see them, photograph them, pet them. I was so pleasantly surprised to see how many ear tipped cats there were! I was even happier to learn of organizations like Save A Gato that work hard to care for and protect the animals.</p> <p>Instead of removing the cats, maybe help the organization with more spay/neuter services- In theory, this should eventually eliminate the cat population.</p> <p>The cats are an essential part of the draw to old San Juan. Please do not remove them.</p> <p>Thank you so much for your time.</p>
1268	Please don't remove the cats from San Juan. I have seen the work @save a gato" does because I walk the paseo usually on sundays as a workout. I love seeing the cats during my walks. This organization cares for them. PLEASE don't remove them as they aren't a danger to visitors.
1269	Please don't remove the cats from el Paseo in old San Juan. These cats need a home and are fed and cared by save a gato organization. The cats are not harmful and should have the opportunity to live freely. They don't belong in a cage or a shelter. PLEASE!!!!
1270	I visited Puerto Rico last April for me and my wife's honeymoon. When visiting old San Juan the cats going around the city never seemed to be bothering anybody. They are doing a great job of fixing all the cats that they can to control the population as much as possible. I really think it would be a horrible thing to needlessly kill these friendly cats. Please consider finding a different way to help this problem other than taking these innocent animals lives.
1271	<p>Every time we go to PR and go out with all my family the best thing we see is the kiddy's around and giving much love.</p> <p>Please let me know what I can do to help not taking them out from what they always call home.</p> <p>At my 40 years my memories from San Juan is watching all this kiddy's.</p> <p>Please support Save a gato 🐱</p>
1272	The cats that belong and live to viejo san juan, Puerto Rico. Aren't a threat nor a plague, that's their home and it is more than a signature thing to viejo san juan yet what makes it a mire wonderful experience.
1273	I am a person with a mental disorder. When i am having trouble, i go to old san juan an sit in the grass in-front of the animal control center. Why? Because the cats will walk by to greet you and they have become part of my animal therapy. These animals have a special bond not

Corr ID	Correspondence
	just yo me, but to my friends as well. These animals are our animals as-well and that is why we people donate. Please don't do this.
1274	<p>Good evening,</p> <p>I am writing to express my concern over the planned removal of the local cats from el paseo del morro. I am not a local Puerto Rican, but much of my visit to Old San Juan was spent visiting the cats on the island. They are a unique treasure of the city and of the island. The cats are well cared for and friendly and a unique attraction of Old San Juan for tourism. Save a Gato is a wonderful organization that routinely performs TNR services for the cats to help control overpopulation. This is the ONLY humane way to handle a stray population. Please consider the effect the "removal" of these animals would have on tourism. Please emulate the warmth of the Puerto Rican people and leave these cats to the care of Save a Gato.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
1275	<p>My wife and I visited El Paseo del Morro national park last year. We really enjoyed visiting the shelter at the edge of the park that is run by Save a Gato. They spay/neuter the stray cats in Viejo San Juan and take care of them. It was a large part of the reason for our visit to the park. Recently, we learned that the National Park Service was trying to exterminate the cats. To my knowledge, there is no endangered species in the park. The cats do not cause any structural damage and are not a nuisance. I strongly discourage getting rid of the cats, especially in an in humane way.</p>
1276	<p>Please don't kill the cats, there are organizations and a lot of locals putting effort and energy in taking care of them, they are nutering as many as they can, what we need is more support in this plan. Me and many locals have adopted many of the cats on the streets. We need help and funding not a massacre.</p>
1277	<p>Please don't remove the cats! We visited Puerto Rico in September of 2019. We had no idea that there was a colony of cats living in Old San Juan. We had seen some "street" cats here and there and enjoyed seeing them hanging out. When we discovered the cats of Paseo del Morro, we absolutely fell in love with OSJ and PR. I researched Save A Gato and have supported them and their work ever since - they have done amazing work getting cats the care they need and working to reduce the number of kittens born on the streets. Paseo del Morro is their home. It was incredible to see so many beautiful cats happily living their lives, sunning themselves on the rocks - like what I imagine heaven could be like. It made a gorgeous walk along the waterfront even better and we vowed to come back. We tell everyone about these cats and how magical it was. Seeing a community come together and really care for this population of cats was truly inspiring and shows the best humanity has to offer. Save A Gato works to find homes for many of the cats in PR, but not all cats are suited for adoption into a home. Those who do better as free range cats deserve to have a happy life where they are loved and taken care of just as much as "adoptable" cats - it just looks a little different for them. Please don't take them away from their home.</p> <p>OSJ is amazing, but the highlight of our trip three years ago was seeing the cats. That is why we want to return, why we want to bring our friends and share the joy of OSJ with them.</p>
1278	<p>Dear Sirs:</p> <p>I'm a cat lover, when I visited the Old San Juan sometimes in the year, I like to see the cats in Old San Juan.</p> <p>I think , that these lovable cats , no represent any risk to the people in the area.</p> <p>They are protect by the Save a Gato Organization, these persons doing a very hard and</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>admirable work. These cats are a Tourist attraction too . Like us , these cats have the rights of be alive. Please give the opportunity to these beautiful pets to live with us. Thanks very much.</p>
1279	<p>Save the cats at el morro! We loved seeing all the cats in San Juan and specifically sought them out during our vacation. We also sought out the cat park. We support save el gato and the cats on the island. Removing them would take away the charm of the city. Please don't remove the cats. Where and how would you remove them. Have them spayed and neutered and let them love their lives.</p>
1280	<p>sin gatos el parque y viejo san juan se pudren de plagas.</p> <p>en adición, la concepción cristiana estadounidense de que los parques deben ser lugares prístinos para el consumo del ser humano es sumamente dañina y así se puede evidenciar en las comunidades de mangles en el sur, cuando al estos espacios ser declarados reservas naturales y sus habitantes humanos desplazadas forzosamente de sus vidas simbióticas con el mangle, muchas especies del hábitat comenzaron a verse afectadas y sus poblaciones disminuyeron considerablemente.</p> <p>los gatos del viejo san juan mantienen a raya las plagas y le dan vida a un lugar que sin ellos no sería más que murallas feas con turistas secos. así que les ruego que se metan su concepción gringa de lo que debe ser un parque (una cosa separada de la naturaleza) por el culo y permitan a los gatos seguir manteniendo la relación simbiótica que tienen con tanto los residentes del área como los turistas y visitantes que pasan por el parque.</p>
1281	<p>You shouldn't 'remove' San juan's cats not only because removing them will probably end up killing them but it's one of El Viejo San juan's attractions, NOT ONLY THAT have you ever seen a rat or mouse in San Juan? Probably not that's the cats, do you really what's us to become new york</p>
1282	<p>Please reconsider, these beautiful cats deserve to be able to live out their lives-they are a healthy colony of cats that Save A Gato has been working tirelessly for the past 20 years to sterilize and care for.</p>
1283	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a Puerto Rican living in the city of Redmond, Washington State and have a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Washington. I also work for the state government as an employee of a local school district.</p> <p>First of all I want to thank you for the work you've done to keep one of Puerto Rico's most important historical landmarks, El Morro, safe and accessible for its locals as well as visitors from all around the world. Now, I understand that you've done years of works on the situation of stray cats in the city of San Juan; you are experts in the situation and nothing I say (for lack of experience and knowledge) can sway your opinion and the likelihood of this project stropping.</p> <p>What I can say is that this is not the way to resolve this situation. Remove stray cats from San Juan and they will just return, either from other populations or because people (as much as it pains me to admit) will release them there. This plan is only a delay tactic; an attempt to show a data point that can be used for funding. I know how it is, I'm a government employee.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>I could go on and on and say what's already been said: "People love the cats, the cats don't harm anyone, they're precious, etc." I could say that a million times and show you the dozens of pictures of my time volunteering at Save a Gato when I visited in the winters but I understand how these things work and that public comments are required to be asked for, not followed. Pardon my cynicism but again, I work for government.</p> <p>If you were to ask me, as I am sure you already know this is the solution, what you need to do is get the population of San Juan (locals, local leaders, buisnesses) educated on this matter. It's a shame that Puerto Rico's spayathon's got put on hold by the pandemic because I swear I could see the light at the end of the tunnel to this problem of stray cats and dogs. Talk to locals, get involved , get the word out that you need the city's help.</p> <p>And please, for the love of God, if the cats end up removed find a HUMANE way to deal with them: adoption agencies in PR and the US would do whatever it takes to get those cats in their hands. Please, if the population of San Juan and the people passionate about these cats get wind that they were removed and disposed off inappropriately...good luck winning the locals over. Good luck winning San Juan again.</p> <p>This is a challenging project and I hope that my fears of what could happen to the cats once they are removed, are unfounded. I hope to be wrong, because it would break my heart. I visit my family every winter, and every time I volunteer supplies to Save a Gato. I am proud of their work and yours as well. Please, make me proud by proving me wrong.</p> <p>Change your course, put a notice that you want people's help and I am sure they will step up. Keep my contact info, put my money where my mouth is and ask me for help. I am literally friends with a veterinarian office here in WA that VOLUNTEERED their time to go to Puerto Rico to help spay and neuter. Ask for help and you will get it.</p> <p>If you remove the cats, they will return. Just look at Istanbul and all its cats, it's been that way since it was Constantinople. There they love cats, San Juan loves cats. Can you say the same?</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
1284	<p>En mi opinión pienso que los gatos no le están haciendo daño a nadie al estar en el vsj. Daría mucha pena y tristeza ver esos animales ser removidos de su hogar y atrasar todo el trabajo que paso la organización save a gato en cuestión de esterilización, encagarse de alimentarlos, ect. Personalmente paso mucho por esa área y no seria lo mismo sin ellos :(</p>
1285	<p>I strongly hope you'll reconsider. These cats mean the world to me and thousands of others but more than that, they are living, breathing animals. A healthy, sterilized cat population is exactly what Save A Gato has been working for 20 years to achieve. Please don't destroy that.</p>
1286	<p>The cats of Old San Juan (OSJ) are an integral part of the community. The cats' presence is heartwarming, friendly and mysterious enriching the tourism and social experience in Old San Juan. Cats of OSJ have a history dating back to the past generations of the colonial city. Furthermore they are the natural deterrent for rodents and vermin in the area.</p> <p>Save-A-Gato (SAG) has provided a possible and humane system to reduce the population of Old San Juan cats through Trap and Neuter (TNR).</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>In order to enhance SAG's TNR efforts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is important to implement strict enforcement measures and controls for mistreating and abandoning cats in OSJ. Resources are not used to respond to the abandonment of cats in the area. It is important to allocate resources to discourage these acts. 2. Tagging and controlling the current population is another way of identifying the cats not belonging to OSJ colony. <p>SAG's efforts and the cats of Old San Juan are linked and essential to the neighborhood. Please save them by improving –not deterring- Save-a Gato's efforts.</p> <p>Euthanasia cannot be the solution.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
1287	<p>Hola saludos,</p> <p>Después de haber leído el plan de manejo de gatos realengos no estoy de acuerdo con su remoción ya que ellos no representan ningún peligro, ya la mayoría están esterilizado y son parte del parque somos muchos los que visitamos el parque y uno de los principales motivos para ir, es ver los gatos, creo que sería una falta de sensibilidad y empatía querer eliminarlos y /o sacarlos de su hábitat.</p>
1288	<p>Please know these cats enrich the culture and beauty of San Juan, they are integral to the scenic beauty of the Paseo and completely made my trip to Puerto Rico happier just when I needed it most. The volunteers are doing an amazing job, please don't take this away from them.</p>
1289	<p>Please don't remove the cats from San Juan. Find them proper homes safely.</p>
1290	<p>Absolutely against the removal of the cats in Old San Juan. The Save a Gato has worked so hard and have done an excellent job with their Trap, Neuter, Release program to keep the population down for the last 20 years. The cats are also loved by locals and tourists that visit the island which also have resulted in adoptions. Save a Gato and countless volunteers will continue their hard work with these cats. It pains me such a proposal was made in the first place. Please, keep the cats around.</p>
1291	<p>Estoy en contra de esta plan de acción. No deben extinguir la población "gatuna" en el viejo San Juan. Estos gatos son el motivo de alegría, felicidad y razón de visitar para la mayoría de las personas. Los gatos se han convertido parte del VSJ y en muchas ocasiones las personas que visitan, es a ver Los Gatos. Save a gato está dedicado a cuidar de aquellos gatos que se encuentran en el area y los cuidan para mantenerlos saludable. De esta manera evitan que los gatos estén enfermos y puedan contagiar con cualquier enfermedad a los seres humanos visitantes y habitantes. En resumidas cuentas Save a Gato realiza la buena labor de cuidar Los Gatos y las personas. No deben tomar acción con la propuesta debido a muchas razones. Entre ellas, las que mencioné anteriormente y por consiguiente, muchos de los residentes del Viejo San Juan tienen como mascota gatos. Los gatos son animales que salen; por lo que no podrán diferenciar entre gatos con dueños y gatos "realengos". Al no reconocer y tomar acción con todos en general, pueden ocasionar daños a los dueños, dejando resultados psicológicamente negativos. Esto escalaría a protestas contra su plan, mala reputación hacia ustedes y una imagen completamente negativa. Existen otras alternativas para la mejora de dichas quejas. Pueden contratar o buscar voluntarios para mantener las áreas limpias, promocionar la organización sin fines de lucros (Save a Gato) a mayor alcance con el</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	objetivo de conseguir voluntarios y personas que deseen adoptar, causando un resultado de disminución en la población de gatos.
1292	<p>Un cordial saludo. Por este medio expongo mi total oposición a esta propuesta de remover y eutanzar a Los Gatos del viejo San Juan. Personas de todos los pueblos, residentes del viejo San Juan y Save a gato, sin tener ningún tipo de ayuda, hemos cuidado de todos esos gatitos. Se ha hecho un excelente trabajo en alimentar, cuidar y esterilizar a todos Los Gatos. No solo son un soporte para la salud mental y emocional, que tan afectada está en Puerto Rico, sino, que estos gatitos son los primeros en evitar que insectos y plagas indeseadas se apropien de las residencias y negocios de todo el viejo San Juan. Los Gatos son cazadores de todas esas plagas tan desagradables. Sería un grandísimo error sacar a Los Gatos de toda esta área, sin mencionar que es una amenaza a los derechos de estos animales tan hermosos y especiales. Les ruego con el corazón en la mano que no de paso a esta propuesta de eutanzar a Los Gatos. La fundación sin fines de lucro, Save a gato, ha dado la Milla extra y una excelente labor en cuidar a todos estos gatitos sin ningún tipo de ayuda del gobierno. Si hubiesen ayudas a este tipo de fundación y las personas que nos encargamos de cuidarlos, la propuesta que ustedes están haciendo podría dar un giro total. Podríamos ayudarnos mutuamente, respetando la vida y la diversidad. Gracias y por favor, NO APRUEBEN NI PROCEDAN CON LA PROPUESTA DE MATAR A LOS GATITOS. ELLOS MERECEAN ALGO MEJOR Y SOMOS MUCHOS LOS QUE NOS ESFORZAMOS POR HACER ESO REALIDAD. POR FAVOR NO MATEN LOS GATOS DEL VIEJO SAN JUAN. NO APRUEBEN, NO PROCEDAN.</p>
1293	<p>As a visitor to the park, I love seeing the cats. We found the Pink Casita by taking a wrong turn and going down the side street. I was fascinated and delighted as I started seeing some shy cats, but noticed as we went on that the cats got more and more friendly. Friendly to the point of jumping into my lap as my husband pushed my wheelchair.</p> <p>I am very concerned that any efforts made to remove these cats would end in their rough and unfair treatment. While I fully support trapping and neutering the colony, I am fervently against its extermination. Help Save-a-Gato by funding vaccination, money to sterilize, and to treat illnesses to keep the colony healthy. But, if there are rats there now, can you even begin to imagine how many more would be present if there were no cats to control that population?</p>
1294	Please reconsider the removal of these beautiful creatures. The implications of this would be catastrophic not only for the cats but also for the community who cares for them. Please allow the people who love and care for them find a way to ensure the cats safety. Animals are not in control of their environment, we are. We must find it in ourselves to do right by those who do not have the autonomy we do. Thank you.
1295	The cats living in San Juan is an important and unique aspect of the community. It's beautiful how the citizens and programs humanely work together to care for the animals. There are few places that have this harmony and as a tourist it was truly charming. I experienced many people taking photos and being charmed by the cats. Please figure out a way to keep this beautiful part of old San Juan. Thanks
1296	Please let the cats be. They are part of your beautiful island and deserve to live. In fact humans are the reason for the over population of stray animals. Please have some compassion, as some rescue organizations have who are helping the overpopulation with sterilization and vaccinations. This is the solution to a problem we have created.
1297	I ask you to please not go through such an awful act. For years, I have visited old san juan and one of the things i enjoy most is seeing the beautiful cats. I am a PR native so all my life I

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>have seen how these cats greet you when you walk by or sometimes, they just SLEEP as you walk by and enjoy the streets of our beautiful old San Juan. They are not causing any trouble, disturbance, or are making San Juan dirty-let's face it, that's a whole different ball game. I implore you to please not ASSASSINATE these selfless, caring, loving and beautiful angels. Save A Gato has been doing such an amazing job at helping minimize the over population of cats for years just for you to come and think you are some Sort of almighty God and take their lives. I don't think you'd do that to the homeless people, would you?? Please leave the cats alone and let Save a Gato fight for them and best of all, CARE for them.</p>
1298	<p>Cats are part of the world we live in. They are curious, receptive, alert and agile animals. It is essential that we learn more about them, rather than eliminating them.</p> <p>We need healthy, STERILIZED cat community.</p>
1299	<p>The cats are part of Old San Juan, it is their home as much as ours. Save a Gato has been providing these cats the attention and love they need for the last 20 years, with food and ways to keep population healthy and controlled by catching, neutering and releasing. Removing the cats from their home would be like removing the birds from Parque de las Palomas, or removing the people living in La Perla. Let the cats keep their home, they love it as much as we do.</p>
1300	<p>I am dismayed to learn of the NPS proposal to remove the cats around El Morro. I enjoy seeing them around Old San Juan and support the mission of Save a Gato to humanely take care of them. I hope that you will reconsider your proposal and instead help support Save a Gato to take care of the cats. Thank you,</p>
1301	<p>Those cats don't harm anyone, if anything they help with rats and such and bring beauty to that old city. Also, those cats are neutered and well cared for without them Old San Juan would be full of rats.</p>
1302	<p>Please don't remove the cats. They're one of my favorite things to see when I visit.</p>
1303	<p>There is a team of wonderful, selfless humans who work hard at caring for the animals here. This would be a huge disservice to not only the humans but the animals. Especially the animals. We need more people to take a stance and protect the voiceless. Please do not do this.</p>
1304	<p>Aparte de que camino por el Viejo San Juan soy amante de los gatos y estoy totalmente en contra de la decisión de eliminar estos animalitos que por tantos años han estado allí sin hacer daño a nadie, libres, esterilizados y alejando las manadas de ratas que viven en el VSI</p> <p>Aparte de que son sumamente amigables y están esterilizados que es super importante!!!!</p> <p>Lo que deberían es protegerlos como hacen en los países de Europa donde los felinos están realengos por todos lados y los turistas los respetan porque los locales los protegen y ven el buen trato que se le da a estos hermosos animalitos.</p> <p>Además, deberían apoyar a la fundación de Save a Gato y sus voluntarios ayudándoles a conseguir fondos \$\$\$ para que continúen esa hermosa labor!!!! Aprendan mejores prácticas de otros países...y ayúdenos a salvar en vez de extinguir estos gatitos.</p> <p>Les pido de favor que protejan los gatitos de esa área, que los dejen ser felices y libres... eso no es mucho pedir.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Gracias!!!
1305	Estimados- trabajé durante 3 años en el Viejo San Juan. Los Gatos son parte de la cultura y el turismo del área. Los Gatos no le hacen daño a nadie. En los 3 años que estuve allí, nunca supe de ataques por parte de ellos a persona alguna. De hecho, escuchaba a los turistas, ya que trabajé en turismo, muy impresionados positivamente con Los Gatos. Además, en otros países hay gatos en la calle sin problema alguno. Ese es el caso de Istanbul y Cádiz. He visitado ambos países y Los Gatos conviven con las personas sin problema alguno. Por favor, no sacrifiquen a estos animales. Ellos merecen vivir. Mejor busquen fondos federales para que puedan apoyar a entidades como saveagato para que continúen con sus labores en bienestar de Los Gatos. ¿Por qué sacrificarlos? ¿Qué data existe de problemas de salud pública? Hay medidas menos crueles y más humanas que la que se proponen. Estoy segura que su intención es buena, pero la solución no es la correcta, respetuosamente. Por ello, me opongo enfáticamente a la propuesta de exterminar a Los Gatos. Se trata de una medida cruel y la opción más fácil, no así la más humana.
1306	Taking cats away from their habitat will only allow more of the species being taken away to return again. If the plan is to remove every cat from the island, the effort, money, and time will be "wasted" by the actions being reversed not too long after. The "stray" cats are taken care of. They are neutered and spayed. The cats of Old San Juan do not deserve to be removed from their homes or killed.
1307	These cats are living there best life. The community has ensured healthy and prosperous life for these beautiful creatures that are a staple of old San Juan. You can't take them away you see they are healthy and kind and mind there own business as you should.
1308	Whenever I go to Old San Juan, the first thing I do is go see the cats. I have photographed more than 50 cats on a walk. All beautiful and well cared for. The organization that takes care of them does a beautiful job. They should use their time to create measures to help stop the overpopulation of stray cats that are homeless and sick. The cats of San Juan already have someone who cares about them, but there are many more who need help.
1309	Save a Gato es más importante y atractivo de lo que parece.Existe una ignorancia de lo que representa la especie felina en las mentes que han sido influenciadas a creer que los felinos domésticos o gatos son dañinos.Ya es tiempo de regar la voz de cómo su presencia durante la historia ha sido heroica .Los grandes maestros artistas,filósofos y científicos destacados tenían como mascota gatos. Yo personalmente tengo una gata que adopté que fue rescatada por Save a Gato y para poder tenerla tuve que cualificar por entrevistas y la complicidad que se dio entre ella y yo cuando nos conocimos .Así de grandioso es el trabajo de Save A Gato. Este trabajo no es en vano.De hecho me codeo con muchos visitantes que me mencionan Los Gatos de San Juan como algo atractivo y genuino,se sienten libres de pasear por sus calles con la protección de Los Gatos en términos de otras criaturas no muy deseables. Hay de hecho unas esculturas muy bonitas que realizó nuestra artista Dafne Elvira,residente de Viejo San Juan las cuales recrean dos sillas de gatos queriéndonos decir que podemos sentarnos en ellos y disfrutar de la vista,la compañía de Los Gatos de Viejo San Juan que es HERMOSO!
1310	Please keep the adorable cats. They are an attraction for people to visit, just like the Hemmingway cats in Key West.
1311	First of all, you should be ashamed. If you wanna talk about a real nuisance in VSJ then you should focus on the infestation of pigeons in the pigeon park that white tourists just love to go into, to feed the birds while they

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>walk all over them with their dirty claws. But that's neither here nor there, just food for thought.</p> <p>Anyway, the VSJ cats bother NO ONE. When you walk to the cat hangout where Save a Gato is located, they're all either sleeping, hanging out, eating, or getting pet. Why is the only solution to kill them all off? You really haven't thought of any better ideas, I just don't believe that. I see it as a mindless, heartless, disgusting act.</p> <p>If anything, the cats help keep the city clean by getting rid of pests. And I think anyone would be happy to not have rats and mice running around. Besides, don't you remember what happened during the Black Plague in Europe? You people haven't learned from your mistakes the first time around? Right, right.</p> <p>Now, on to the FACTS: Save A Gato is a fantastic organization backed by thousands of supporters. They are doing the absolute best they can with the resources they have. If you really want to help out, then perhaps put your money towards organizations such as this one to help them continue the work they're doing to give these cats a second chance and a home at that. Helping local organizations expand would allow them to do their work at a larger scale. You can't expect overnight solutions when you don't even want to consider assisting local. Instead, you want to put your grubby fat fingers where they don't belong and euthanize cats, cats that have a HOME in VSJ, sentient beings that are just as important as the residents that live in VSJ.</p> <p>Shame on you.</p> <p>If you move forward with this, we will not allow it. So I suggest you come up with better solutions, not lazy, disgusting vile &quot;solution&quot; such as that one you chose. That is not a solution, it is a crime.</p>
1312	<p>I here by defend Save a Gato work with the feline population of Old San Juan. The cats of Old San Juan have become a staple of the city and many tourist and locals enjoy the cats. Instead of eliminating the current resident cats, re direct the funding and work with Save a Gato so they can continue with the TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release) program that has been very successful at controlling the number of cats. Provide a safe heaven for the resident cats were people can go and adopt them, foster and donate to the cause.</p>
1313	<p>Please do not euthanize living beings. These cats aren't feral, they're obviously social and friendly. There are people in the community who have not only fostered loving connections with these cats but would be genuinely heartbroken to lose them. Please reconsider the motion to remove and euthanize these cats.</p>
1314	<p>Please do not remove the cats, they are the highlight of every experience when I take friends and family to visit San Juan. The cats are a reflection of the kindness of Puerto Ricans and an integral cultural component to Old San Juan. The cats do not bother anyone and are fully taken care of by private donations and help. It is cruel to remove them.</p>
1315	<p>Our group manages a mid-sized stray and feral cat colony in Buenos Aires' only Botanical Gardens, Jardin Botanico Carlos Thays. Through our management of the colony, which the local government entrusted to our NGO, the colony has shrunk in size and increased in well-being.</p> <p>In my opinion as a person who has contributed to the care and management of a feral and</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>stray cat colony for the past 15 years, as well as a neighbor of the park where this colony is, the cat colony serves a purpose both practical and touristic. They keep the rat population down and also attract tourists who want to photograph the cats.</p> <p>The wisest thing a government can do regarding a cat colony is to trust and rely on their caretakers, and offer them at the very least the basic conditions in which to carry their activities. Removing the cats from the location is not only not an adequate solution, it is also extremely short-sighted- what does the government plan to do to prevent people from continuing abandoning their unwanted cats at that location?</p> <p>I wholeheartedly support SaveAGato, and trust their management of the colony. I hope that they are allowed to continue their efforts without obstruction from the local government.</p>
1316	<p>I go to San Juan a lot for vacation. I love seeing the cats there. They are so friendly and have never been a problem. I actually adopted a cat I saw in San Juan through Save A Gato. Their whole purpose is to help these cats and take care of them. They keep them healthy, spayed/neutered, fed, etc. They have been doing this for decades. San Juan is these cats home. The people in San Juan love them as well. I hope you really take into consideration what you're trying to do and decide against it. Save A Gato takes great care of these cats and their whole purpose is to help them. The cats are so loved in San Juan. I sincerely hope you decide to let them stay.</p>
1317	<p>Como ciudadana puertorriqueña que reside en Puerto Rico. Les pido que consideren este proyecto que atenta contra la vida de los felinos domésticos. Quienes han servido como control de plagas en el viejo San Juan, atracción turística y terapia emocional para muchos locales. Como puertorriqueña y amante de los animales, me siento orgullosa de caminar por las calles del viejo San Juan y encontrarme con estos maravillosos seres. En otros países como Grecia y Turquía son patrimonio y el gobierno se encarga de cuidarlos, esterilizarlos y aquí ¿los queremos asesinar? Eso no hablaría bien de Puerto Rico ni del manejo que tiene el gobierno con los animales de aquí.</p>
1318	<p>PLEASE save the cats!</p>
1319	<p>Please do not remove the cats within Paseo Del Morro, Old San Juan. I love visiting the cats on my vacations. Every year I visit I see significant improvements! The cats look so healthy and well cared for. You can tell just how much Save A Gato works to improve the lives of their kitties. It's really amazing. They also adopt out young cats they find and give them loving homes. Please, please reconsider.</p>
1320	<p>I have read the proposed action and agree with removal of the feral cats. TNR will not be successful with an open population, and the non-native predators will continue to kill birds and lizards. Removal is the best option.</p>
1321	<p>Hello, To remove and eutanize the cats in Old San Juan is cruel to the animals and to all the people that have helped over so many years in this proyect, it will be disrespectful and a personal offense.</p> <p>Why not put the money in educating those people that think that animals are objects that they can just abandon in the streets, its time people register their pets, it should be mandatory to spayed everybodys pet.</p> <p>I have the feeling some deep pockets anti cat people are behind this and it got the NPS in their payroll now.</p> <p>This just confirms my feelings against government.</p>
1322	<p>Please do not publish personal info.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>I was born in PR and I couldn't believe that removing the cats in San Juan was even in consideration! Those cats have lived in San Juan for decades and they are actually part of the Old San Juan culture. If they are consider a nuance by the tourists ,then so be it. OLD SAN JUAN is their home! LEAVE THEM ALONE! I know that the "most important bottom line" is the money and how it can affect the economy, but for God's sake those cats are part of our puertorican history!</p>
1323	<p>Please don't remove the colonies of cats from Old San Juan. It is those cats that have the rat population under control. Those little animals hurt no one in the park. They have actually become a tourist attraction. Those cats are neutered and vaccinated also. So any misinformation that they are dirty and carry disease is a straight out lie. I hope the desires of a few elite and animal haters does not jeopardize the home of these gentle creatures . Thank you</p>
1324	<p>Why have saveagato if you're going to eliminate these beautiful souls? This organization has been working very hard through out the years to keep the cat population down (TNR) as well as making sure they are feed and given water. In turn the cats have kept the rat population almost to extinction. They do not bother anyone. It's a tourist attraction. What if they'd do the same in Key West, do you think they'd allow for the cats to be exterminated? Please, please reconsider your point if view and direct the funds you'd use to eliminate them to a better cause. Maybe make the areas more liveable and help the saveagato organization. Thank you for your time</p>
1325	<p>Hello and greetings. I had never visited PR before learning about Los Gatos of Old San Juan. What a wonderful experience! I made my vacation from Boston, MA specifically to come see your community cats. I enjoyed my stay at El Convento Hotel nearby, and exploring your charming city with so many nice restaurants and shops. By accident, I just saw online that you are in discussion about care for your community cats. Thank you for reading, and I hope my comments will be received. I was so excited to go see the cats and had no idea what to expect. When I began the walk, it was disappointing to see no cats- but gradually, they revealed themselves. It's wonderful that this area is set aside for the cats, and I recommend the trip to see them! The location is a bit rugged for them, but it makes a good area separate from the streets of the town. Perfect photo opportunities. I was very impressed both with the gentle cats, and the hardworking volunteers. I agree that they need more resources for sterilization and veterinary care, and am happy to make a donation to help maintain the cats in their longstanding home. The highlight of my travels, the kind volunteers welcomed me to help with some cleaning and chores during my visit, and the opportunity to learn how they care for the cats "behind the scenes". It was really fun and relaxing. The range of colors of your cats is incredible. Some are very rare. I hope you will value this treasure. Of course they need care. TNR, even in an open site, absolutely makes a big difference. It just needs resources to reach the 70%+ sterilization percentage of population. It was clear to see the positive impact of the TNR program at El Morro park. I've been fortunate to travel to other countries over the years, and have seen many where community cats are not well cared for. Several countries come to mind, no names. It's heartbreaking to see emaciated, sick, wounded, animals on the streets. Here in OSJ the cats overall are very healthy, and unusually gentle. I did not see suffering animals in the rest of the town, which proves their contentment in this designated area. If you are open to suggestion, to me, the greatest need to improve the visitor experience on El Paseo, is the lack of shade in the heat of summer. I did worry a little about personal safety for people walking there in the heat, and thank you for posting the sign at the entrance warning visitors to bring water. However the cats were a great attraction and</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>in my opinion, could be better used in the publicity for the park. I understand it's not always easy to find enough homes for those cats who are friendly and can tolerate human contact. Sterilization is always a better way, by increasing resources to the volunteers who are already familiar with the cats, to increase sterilization and veterinary care. It takes time to show stabilization or reduction in population, but it does work. Regarding people &quot;dumping&quot; cats there, I'm not aware if there are other options for them to safely surrender cats at another location? It is a crime to dump an animal, and they should be held accountable. Sadly I could not adopt a cat myself because of our active small dog at home. There was no easy way to take a cat back to the States for adoption by someone else, and cats suffer when they are moved. However when I left, I was happy to volunteer to transport a Sato dog for adoption to his new home in New England, where he is very loved. I do think this type of animal lovers tourism is a benefit to OSJ. I look forward to another visit. Not only El Yunque has attractive wildlife! Thank you for reading, and best wishes.</p>
1326	<p>I strongly urge you to consider spaying/neutering the cats instead of euthanasia. If there was a petition with a link to donate to the cause I am sure many would contribute. Thank you.</p>
1327	<p>The &quot;free-range cats&quot; are a staple of Viejo San Juan and are a draw for both tourists and residents alike. They don't bother anyone and are usually a pleasant surprise when walking the paths and exploring the area. Euthanizing all of these cats feels unnecessary and inhumane.</p>
1328	<p>Hello. As a tourist it is very important for me that animals are treated best as possible in the countries I am visiting. Therefore I sincerely ask you not to remove the feral cats from the national park. They are a controlled population and people care a lot for these friendly animals! All the best from Germany DE,</p>
1329	<p>Please protect the lives of the cats on the streets, all life is so valuable, and they are deserving of love like everyone else. I beg you to consider a TNR program, trap neuter release, which will reduce the cat population drastically without harming any of them. Many humane societies and charities offer this service, and it is not costly. I understand the goal of reducing an animal population if it is necessary, but there are ways to do this without harming them or ending their lives. Please find the empathy in your heart to explore these other options, animal lovers everywhere will thank you. It will also be amazing positive publicity. Thank you.</p>
1330	<p>Your proposal for removing the cats is inhumane, and doesn't address the problem long term, as you have pointed out in your proposal materials, since it is not an isolated area. You've clearly identified several problems such as the smell near the feeding stations and the slow increase in cat population. Why not use the money you would have spent on exterminating 200 cats to address the specific problems identified in conjunction with Save a Gato? They're the most knowledgeable about the cat population and could help devise solutions that you could then spend the money on implementing.</p>
1331	<p>Personally I don't know anyone that has an issue with cats living at the Paseo & actually love having the cats there + generally in OSJ. I was living in OSJ for a year+, visited the cats daily & never once saw a problem so this seems mostly like a few bossy &quot;Karens&quot; that just want things their way.</p> <p>It would be great if these cats could be adopted &/or live a better life but:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - there is no mention in this plan of what will happen to the removed cats so I assume that means you will kill them. I don't support that & you should be up front about this. - it won't stop ignorant people from continuing to drop more cats off (which seems to be the real issue) & you don't mention any plan around this.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>The issues mentioned are very weak & w/out evidence, just hearsay, & some are just uncorrelated nonsense. Before you guys go & destroy the lives of 100s of sentient beings that have emotions, sadness & happiness just like you do, but are powerless to say anything, why don't you come up with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A real study & surveys that aren't just hearsay & just based on a few complainers that want things their way 2. Full solutions & explanations, w/out omitting details like killing animals
1332	<p>I believe that efforts should be intensified to spay and neuter the cats in the Camino del Gatos so that the population is kept under control but they should not be removed. Kittens should be taken and adopted but the stray cats should be neutered and released where they can continue to live their lives peacefully outdoors. I have seen the cats on several occasions and they are my favorite part of visiting San Juan. They are friendly and seem content with their environment and I believe that removing them would cause them a large amount of unnecessary distress and I think it would be difficult to find a good solution for them since most would struggle to adjust to life indoors or with people. I would be extremely upset if the government was planning on killing them and it would definitely impact my decision to visit San Juan again in the future. The solution to keeping an animal population under control is through spay and neuter and educating the public about it making it accessible and affordable for people who have pets. Please reconsider this plan.</p>
1333	<p>It is unfair to remove cat's from their natural habitat. If there's money to hire an agency to remove them, there's money to find a better option that ensures their safety. They don't bother anyone in SJ and they're actually considered a tourist attraction and are even cared for by many organizations that TNR them, take care of their medical necessities and later on make sure they are adopted, often times even by tourist themselves. They are also loved and cared for by many members of the community. It's important to note that cats prey on a wide variety of rodents, therefore playing a contributing factor in pest control in the area. Might I add, it's been scientifically proven that once you remove a population from its habitat, another takes its place, so this proposal wouldn't reach its goal nonetheless in the long run. There's a reason why this project hasn't moved forward in the past and it's still valid today. If it's progress you want you should be taking measures to ensure human beings take proper care of their animals upon deciding to adopt them into their families. A very big contributing factor to the many strays in OSJ is because of the irresponsible pet owners who abandon them. If it's a problem fixer you're searching for, invest in installing camera's all over the area where these animals can be found to be able to see when these animals are being abandoned and by who and move on to charging them for it, therefore making it harder for others to keep abandoning their animals in the future. Another measure that could be applied would be to implement stricter regulations for adoptions. For example: random health visitations over the years, requesting yearly updates on the animal adopted, provided with evidence and more. Might I add, there are many abandoned properties in the area, why not make one of them a no kill shelter to provide these animals with the care they need? At the very least, funds could be provided to the many organizations that are committed to ensuring the safety of these animals, at the very least, resources could be offered to promote TNR which has been proven to control the constantly increasing cat population. Everyone knows this proposal will result in euthanizing these animals and there's no excuse for letting this happen rather than being an inconsiderate human being, specially when other valid options have been presented and are possible to commit to. There's so much bad in the world already, why not be the difference and make the right decision?</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1334	<p>These cats are harming absolutely no one. They have been there for years! They are a part of Old San Juan. They are a family. They are! So just let them be where they should feel safe. I'm against it.</p>
1335	<p>To whom it May concern:</p> <p>Kittens have been part of the community for decades and it's not fair that they want to remove them now.</p> <p>In any case, make this a tourism opportunity and provide facilities so that the kittens can live with the community of Old San Juan.</p>
1336	<p>Best Friends Animal Society is a national animal welfare organization with offices and partnerships across the country. We are pioneers in the development, implementation, and operation of community cat programs. Through our innovative public-private partnerships with local municipalities, Best Friends has operated more large-scale, community cat programs than any other organization in the country. The successes we've seen, in our own programs and others, echo the findings of research studies demonstrating the effectiveness of targeted trap-neuter-vaccine-return (TNVR) to stabilize and reduce the population of cats at a local level (as noted below).</p> <p>On behalf of Best Friends Animal Society and our many supporters across the country, I encourage the National Park Service (NPS) to expand and intensify TNVR efforts in managing free-roaming cats at the San Juan National Historic Site.</p> <p>In the document "Free-Ranging Cat Management Plan for San Juan National Historic Site," made available to the public in October 2022 as a Public Scoping Newsletter ("Newsletter"), NPS describes its proposed action for removing cats from the San Juan National Historic Site in San Juan, Puerto Rico ("Park"). According to NPS, this plan is needed, in part, to "reduce impacts to cultural resources and native wildlife species associated with free-ranging cats." However, it's not clear what these impacts are. Which native wildlife species have been affected, for example, and to what extent? Given the Park's modest size, number of visitors annually (which, according to NPS, regularly exceeds one million), and its highly developed surroundings, it's difficult to imagine that there are many native wildlife species left to protect—especially any species considered threatened or endangered.</p> <p>Numerous peer-reviewed studies have documented the efficacy of trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR) for reducing free-roaming cat populations [1–12]. Although this method of population management is typically associated with cat welfare concerns, it has also been applied in areas where wildlife protection was of greatest concern. Indeed, TNVR is the preferred method for managing free-roaming cats on the campus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Howard College, in Durban, South Africa, which is recognized as an "urban conservancy... interspersed with conservation-sensitive natural bush habitat and a nature reserve on the northern border" [10]. Researchers there point out that removal would likely create a "vacuum effect" and "encourage subsequent reinvasion of the area."</p> <p>"It may be more costly both financially in the long-term and in terms of effects on the indigenous wildlife populations if immigration of new, unsterilized cats were to take up residency on the campus" [12].</p> <p>Such costs are not hypothetical; research has demonstrated just how costly lethal removal can</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>be. A 2015 study from southern Tasmania, for example, found that "low-level ad hoc culling of feral cats" is not only ineffective at reducing their numbers, but might actually lead to their increase due to "influxes of new [adult] individuals after dominant resident cats were removed" [13]. More recently, researchers in New Caledonia found that, despite removing "an estimated 44% of the population," there were "no meaningful differences in the relative abundance and density of feral cats" just three months later [14].</p> <p>The NPS Newsletter indicates that rats, too, are a concern. In the event that the cats were removed from the Park, the number of rats is likely to increase. This would, in turn, likely lead to indirect impacts as well with an increased use of rodenticides, which can be harmful and even deadly to various non-target species [15,16].</p> <p>Under the Service's proposed plan, NPS "would contract a professional organization or agency" to undertake "the humane capture and removal of the cats." It seems likely that many, if not most, of these cats would be killed. As the Service acknowledges, "there are often not enough adopters or shelter space" even for cats who are suitable for adoption. The likely fate of cats removed from the Park (and the anticipated costs associated with such efforts) should be made clear in any future NPS communications.</p> <p>The Service's "No Action" alternative would allow the non-profit Save a Gato to continue TNVR efforts, maintaining feeding stations, etc. Merely allowing this organization to continue the good work they've been doing for nearly 20 years now is missing an important opportunity. Reports published by NPS have highlighted the importance of collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders [17,18], noting, for example, that "parks can find great value, and ultimately increased effectiveness at a lower cost, by engaging collaboratively and broadly in invasive species problems" [17]. Save a Gato should be seen as the partner they have proven to be—and therefore receive financial support from the Service. After all, the proposed plan calls for hiring professionals to remove the cats—at considerable cost to taxpayers. Targeted TNVR efforts, on the other hand, are likely to be more cost-effective than removal efforts [19,20] and enjoy greater public support [21].</p> <p>The plan being proposed by NPS is likely to be costly, ineffective, and met with strong public outcry. And it may very well backfire, leading to a significant increase in the Park's rat population. Expanded and intensified TNVR efforts, on the other hand, are likely to meet the agency's objective, do so more economically, and garner the support of residents and visitors alike.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Literature Cited</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spehar, D.D.; Wolf, P.J. An Examination of an Iconic Trap-Neuter-Return Program: The Newburyport, Massachusetts Case Study. <i>Animals</i> 2017, 7, 81. 2. Spehar, D.D.; Wolf, P.J. A Case Study in Citizen Science: The Effectiveness of a Trap-Neuter-Return Program in a Chicago Neighborhood. <i>Animals</i> 2018, 8, 14. 3. Spehar, D.D.; Wolf, P.J. Back to School: An Updated Evaluation of the Effectiveness of a Long-Term Trap-Neuter-Return Program on a University's Free-Roaming Cat Population.

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1337	<p>Estimados(as),</p> <p>Espero que este mensaje le llegue a su inbox y les obligo parar el proyecto "Environmental Access for Paseo Del Morro-Free Ranging Cats." Es inhumano e immoral que, de ponerlo en la manera que es, sacar y matar a los gatos que caminan por el Viejo San Juan. Ellos no desorganizan la paz del publico sino le da vida a la ciudad histórica. Le imploro que retiren este "proyecto" y que resuelvan un problema que en realidad interrumpe la estadía de las personas como quitar las ratas y ratones que viven en San Juan. Si pasan este proyecto posiblemente habra un tipo de protesta por el pueblo que arruinará su reputación por completo. Les imploro por favor dejen a los gatos quietos y que cancelen este proyecto, eso es lo único que pido.</p> <p>Un ciudadano preocupado,</p>
1338	<p>Hi there. The cats is Old San Juan are being feeded, sterilized and protected by the Save a Gato Organization. They should be preserved or given in adoption instead of sacrificing them.</p>
1339	<p>Dear SAJU Superintendent,</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR), adoptable animal transport to areas where there is demand for adoption (such as within the mainland U.S.) and expanded low cost/no cost spay/neuter programs & education within Puerto Rico.</p> <p>TNR is the only humane and effective approach to managing community cats. Community</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>cats live happy and healthy lives outdoors. However, since most community cats are not socialized or friendly to people, they cannot be adopted and live indoors, making community cats the most at-risk animals in shelters. They usually do not leave animal shelters alive. Catching and dumping OSJ's community cats into shelters will likely result in the mass killing of these cats.</p> <p>Studies show TNR stabilizes community cat populations by stopping the breeding cycle, thereby improving cats' lives by relieving them of the constant stresses of mating and pregnancy, while also vaccinating them against rabies. TNR benefits the public by stopping disruptive mating behaviors like yowling, spraying, roaming and fighting. TNR also saves taxpayer money by reducing shelter intake, shelter euthanasia and calls to animal control.</p> <p>Hundreds of communities have adopted an official TNR ordinance or policy and thousands more conduct grassroots, volunteer-led programs, like Save a Gato. These numbers continue to rise as more communities realize the outdated approach of catching and killing cats is cruel and ineffective.</p> <p>Moreover, the proposed removal of the food bins along the Paseo will not effectively deter cats from the area. Feeding bans have been shown to be ineffective in decreasing community cat populations. These cats do not depend on people feeding them to survive. As scavengers, cats will find food in garbage cans and dumpsters.</p> <p>Cats are territorial, bonded to their surroundings and will not leave simply because compassionate people can no longer legally feed them. Ultimately, a feeding ban will result in cats roaming farther to find food and digging through people's trash.</p> <p>Instead, expanding access on the island to low cost or no cost spay/neuter programs will greatly reduce the population of unwanted, abandoned animals flooding areas like OSJ where misguided individuals dump their cats, knowing someone else will care for them. This is not just a cat problem in OSJ, but a Commonwealth-wide problem of dumping unwanted cats and dogs. Indeed, there is an area on the south side of the island colloquially known as Dead Dog Beach, reflecting this practice and its unfortunate effects on the environment and the animals that are dumped.</p> <p>Studies show that in homes where the income was \$35,000 or higher, almost all cats (around 93%) were neutered, while 75% of un-neutered cats live in homes where the income was less than \$35,000. (Data from alleycat.org). The lower-income owners who were interviewed primarily cited high cost as the reason for not sterilizing their cats.</p> <p>With much of Puerto Rico's population living below the poverty line, spay/neuter is inaccessible. Thus, unwanted cats are often dumped in Old San Juan or other areas of the island, as the perceived only viable alternative to humanely unload the burden of unwanted pets. Thus, education and access to low cost/no cost sterilization resources is key.</p> <p>Let's tackle the problem at its root, rather than band-aid the symptoms. I propose the National Park Service partner with local government, Save a Gato, and organizations like the Humane Society, to facilitate implementation of regular low cost/no cost spay/neuter initiatives in OSJ. This will reduce the effects of animal</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>dumping and the burden on the underfunded, 100% volunteer group that is Save a Gato. This should be a catalyst to implementing low cost/no cost sterilization island-wide, to truly address this problem once and for all. Education and access to sterilization resources will humanely curb the population of unwanted animals -not catch and elimination, nor TNR without resources or support.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration of his extremely important, humane issue.</p> <p>Please let me know if you have any questions.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
1340	Por favor no maten los gatos del viejo san juan!
1341	This proposal to kill the cats in San Juan is horrible. Save a Gato has been taking care of these cats for a long time with little support from the government - they TNR and give these cats a great life. No cats should be killed! These cats are part of San Juan's charm and should be protected at all costs!
1342	You can choose; either cats or rats. They are even tourist attraction. There are tourists who walk El Paseo del Morro just to see them. Also, I run in that area and they are not a bother. If you want to control the population, support NGOs with spaying/neutering and release.; it's the humane way to go
1343	When I went to San Juan, now one of my favorite places on earth, the stray cats in Old San Juan were one of the main attractions I wanted to go to. It was such a welcoming, safe, authentic way to come into contact with the culture and family of Old San Juan, both furry and not. Having the cats taken care of by being sterilized, vaccinated, and offered food greatly reduces the number of strays, rabid cats, and controls the cat population. Relocating them will take away these resources and likely make their presence more of a disturbance wherever they end up. Please continue to allow these animals to be a part of the old San Juan culture and appeal. It's beautiful to watch humans and animals live in harmony, and rescues are dedicated to the safety and well-being of the community.
1344	The cats of old San Juan mean so much to so many people. I remember the first time I met them back in 2015. It was one of my best memories. This past August 2022, I was able to visit again and this time with my husband. I told him about the cats and how I couldn't wait to see them again. We spent hours petting them and watching them. It was one of our highlights of the trip. Before we left San Juan, we bought food and water for some of them. We also donate to Save a Gato to care for them. San Juan will never be the same without them. It is their home. I look forward to visiting the cats of old San Juan again.
1345	Please keep the cat colony! They deserve to thrive and live. Part of the allure of some tourist destinations is getting to see the local cats. They add to the charm of an area. And I bet a lot of people appreciate getting to see cute furry friends running around. Keep these babies where they are!
1346	<p>Greetings,</p> <p>I have been saddened by the news of the proposed actions to be taken in regards to stray cats in the San Juan area. I have witnessed the love, care and medical attention provided to cats by the Save a Gato organization. This organization has employed a very well accepted solution in the United States which has the capability to not only keep cats safe, but as well citizens and tourists. I plea for your collaboration in assisting Save a Gato in continuing their amazing work as they have provided for many years. Many of us, who admire their response, desire</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>for Save a Gato to remain providing sterilization, food and living arrangements. Save a Gato also helps other organizations and companies, such as Pet Smart, to allocate felines in their forever homes. Please consider all the efforts of Save a Gato and their excellent work, even through the pandemic challenges. They have been loyal in their commitment and I applaud the results of their hard work.</p> <p>Respectfully yours,</p>
1347	<p>Hello! I lived in Puerto Rico for 7 beautiful months in 2020/21. During my time there I had the opportunity to volunteer with Save A Gato. It was something I looked forward to every single week, the folks that run the organization and the sweet kitties are amazing. The cats that reside at the fort are almost as notable as the NPS site itself. They are sweet yet wild, domesticated and feral all at once. They are something you look forward to seeing every time you are there. Removing them would be silly of the national park service. I'm a guide and I have worked in the Grand Canyon, Joshua Tree, Apostle Islands, Everglades, Yosemite, Yellowstone, Arches and Glacier - just to name a few. All of those NPS have come to accept, and even embrace, some invasive species. The El Morro cats don't pose a dangerous threat like the pythons in the Everglades. They have become a part of the community and should be embraced as such.</p>
1348	<p>I oppose the plan to euthanize and see that as inhumane. I support TNR.</p>
1349	<p>Eso gatos llevan años ahí ,pq la opción de eliminarlos , están operados y sabe a gato los alimenta hay mucho turista,que aman a los animales y muchos que vienen los visitan , hay países que en estos momentos están haciendo airbb para personas amantes de estos seré, pq siempre el de eliminar pq no buscar opciones ellos tienen derecho a estar en este mundo y cohesitar con nosotros por favor hay otras opciones no los maten....</p>
1350	<p>Save the cats! I am against the project of eliminating cats from San Juan.</p>
1351	<p>Keep the cats in SJ, theres no need to remove them, when theyve been living for a decade and are being treated by Saveagato to maintain the cats from mating and spreading diseases. KEEP THE CATS OF VIEJO SAN JUAN</p>
1352	<p>Why would you remove the cats from Paseo del Morro? Are you not aware that the 6.0 miles Paseo del Morro, used to be crawling with giant rats until the cats appeared. Your purpose is to remove them and have the Old city of San Juan get contaminated and stink all over. Cats maintain the natural order and balance on the food pyramid. Instead of removing, assist with the adoptions and be aware that some of the cats have arrive bc of locals and the cats MUST NOT be punished for this</p>
1353	<p>Estamos completamente en contra del plan para la remoción de los gatos del viejo San Juan. Es un acto cruel y que va en contra de las leyes para la protección de animales, igualmente daría paso a otros problemas ya que ayudan con el control de plagas y muchos turistas son atraídos precisamente por estos gatos. La organización Save A Gato ha realizado una labor extraordinaria durante muchos años y podrían hacer mucho más si contaran con el apoyo del Gobierno.</p>
1354	<p>Leave the cats of San Juan alone Save a Gato is doing an amazing job the cats are fine.</p>
1355	<p>Por favor, no remuevan los gatitos callejeros. Los gatos son animales independientes, ellos no hacen daño ni se le acercan a las personas a menos que estas les ofrezcan cariño. Ellos no tienen la culpa de la irresponsabilidad de la gente que los abandonan. Ellos no tienen la capacidad de hablar y expresar sus necesidades como nosotros. Los animales confían en nosotros. Por favor, se los ruego no los remuevan</p>
1356	<p>Please do not remove the cats from el Morro of old San Juan. I have beautiful memories of my childhood walking down el Paseo de la Princesa and seeing this lovely cats. I understand</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	that they need help but organizations like save a gato are putting a lot of effort of doing everything they can to help this animals.
1357	<p>Saludos,</p> <p>No estoy a favor de este movimiento. No encuentro la necesidad de 'euthanize' a estos pobres gatitos que ya han sido esterilizados por la organizacion S.A.G. (Save a Gato) y son cuidados por ellos. Encuentro que pueden haber mejores soluciones que simplemente ponerlos a dormir solo porque es más fácil. Lo encuentro egoista e inhumano.</p>
1358	<p>These sweet little kitties are such a charming part of the park! This is their home, and they add such a wonderful experience - like the sled dogs at Denali! This personally makes me want to visit the park more, not less, and I know I'm not the only one who feels this way. Removing them would be so cruel and unsafe to them and there are so many organizations that can work with you on TNR efforts if you're worried about it getting out of hand. Please let them stay. They don't deserve to be misplaced and have their lives out at risk unnecessarily when there are so many other options.</p>
1359	<p>Creo que es una falta de respeto que quieran remover a esos gatitos de su lugar, lugar por el cuál estuvieron desde antes que todos nosotros y USTEDES estuvieran vivos. Los gatos del viejo San Juan siempre han sido parte y muchos de nosotros y turistas van solamente para el área donde están los gatos porque lo ven como si fueran un tipo de atracción, ya nadie viene para ver el "morro" ni la garita con olor a orín de las personas; las personas van a ver a los gatitos. Creo que es inaceptable que quieran removerlos cuando todo lo que ha hecho Save A Gato ha sido protegerlos, darles un hogar, darles comida, agua limpia, hacen TNR, y ustedes me están diciendo que en vez de usar ese dinero para AYUDAR A SAVE A GATO A PODER ATRAPAR A MÁS GATOS, esterelizarlos, etcétera, prefieren contratar compañías individuales que se dedican a la remoción de ellos?</p> <p>ya con eso se están dejando ver ustedes mismos, tienen el dinero suficiente para apoyar a save a gato con lo que ellos necesiten para agilizar adopciones y agilizar esterilizaciones y vacunas, pero es que no los quieren ayudar. Es una pena y tristeza, nosotros no dejaremos que les hagan daño a esos gatitos, son seres vivientes y no tienen la culpa de nada, ellos no son gatos callejeros, son gatos que cada uno tiene su nombre, aveces les tienen marcas en las orejas para reconocerlos, les tienen cajas de arena en muchos lugares, comida fresca y agua limpia, los atrapan para esterilizarlos y vacunarlos, créanme, que ellos bastante cuidados y bastantes dueños tienen, SAVE A GATO son sus dueños, los mismos vecinos de la comunidad del viejo San Juan también.</p> <p>Yo solo quisiera saber quién levantó una queja para que ustedes quieran cometer un acto tan feo contra unos animalitos y una fundación que se dedica en protegerlos y brindarles todo lo que pueden a ellos.</p> <p>Si tanto quieren ayudar, únense con Save A Gato, es lo mejor que pueden hacer. El dinero que utilizarían para contratar personas externas para la "remoción" de ellos, mejor dénselo a Save A Gato.</p>
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1361	<p>Please save the cats if San Juan. They are beloved by many, tourists and locals alike. I went there just to see them.</p>
1362	<p>TNR balances the needs and concerns of the human communities in which many feral cats live. People don't want cats rounded up and killed. They want to see cat populations stabilized and appreciate when the mating behaviors of cats are brought into check through spaying and neutering. With TNR, adult cats spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and ear tipped are returned to the colony to live out their lives in their outdoor home.</p> <p>For 20 years Save a Gato, caregivers and volunteers implemented TNR, and the benefits are clear. The cats are welcomed in the neighborhood and cared for by many of the residents. The United States spends millions of dollars each year rounding up and killing cats through "catch and kill schemes. The unfounded hope is that the killing will lead to reduced cat population levels.</p> <p>The Vacuum Effect ensures it will not.</p> <p>Scientific evidence proves that lethal cat population control schemes don't work. A large body of research confirms what smart observers have long known: new cats will inevitably fill habitats emptied by cat removal schemes. In other words, the Vacuum Effect occurs, and it makes killing outdoor cats pointless.</p> <p>Not only does the cat population rebound, it rebounds fast. Before you know it, there are the same number of cats outdoors as there were before. The only result is that many cats are needlessly killed often over and over again.</p> <p>What's worse, lethal cat control schemes are as indiscriminate as they are cruel and ineffective. Countless cats, whether unowned or pet cats, are killed in the process. That is part of the reason rounding up and killing cats is massively unpopular with the public. And morally unsound.</p> <p>All of this for an inherently flawed policy that provides no long-term cat population control. New cats won't be spayed/neuter or vaccinated, and will become a worst problem.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	These cats are very much loved by the community, islanders and tourists, and are an attraction. Please do not do such a harm.
1363	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I am of Puerto Rican descent and my Grandfather & Mother live in Carolina PR. I am not a full time resident, but I spend at least half a year in PR caring for my Family. I have been a part time resident now for 23 years. I recently found out that the Parks department is planning to evict the cat population in Old San Juan, this has me very upset with the possibility that these innocent animals will be murdered. I totally understand that there is an issue with the felines, but murdering these animals is not the HUMANE way to handle this. I beg that there can be an alternative solution to this. Please reconsider what might be the evitable fate for these poor innocent animals. There needs to be better education to the citizens of PR and their care of animals having them spayed & neutered. PLEASE RECONSIDER THIS DECISION, I BEG OF YOU.</p>
1364	<p>all of the cats in Viejo, San Juan pose no problem to anyone. these cats did not choose a life on the streets, instead of mercilessly killing animals who CAN actually think for themselves, maybe trapping fixing and releasing them would solve the issue at hand. but since no one is in the government is actually humanitarian it makes sense you don't care about cats. you hardly even care about women. these cats provide joy and laughter to those who are pure hearted enough to come across them. they love to be loved, pet, and played with. if you euthanize that many stray kittens it is no longer the cats that are the problem, it is your empathy.</p>
1365	<p>The cats of Old San Juan aren't hurting anybody and Save a Gato is doing its best to sterilize and keep them healthy. Please don't euthanize these cats. If you really want to get rid of them humanely, then provide aid to Save a Gato so they can better manage the colony.</p>
1366	<p>The cats roaming out and about are killing rats which carry diseases including leptospirosis and hanta virus. Rats also know thru lead pipes, electrical wiring and historical buildings. We love seeing these cats and watching people show kindness to them. Visitors like me will not come to any area that removes cats.</p>
1367	<p>Please consider honoring the existing relationship with Save a Gato, who are willingly working to care for these cats. These cats do not deserve to be removed from their home or potentially receiving further euthanization. Save a Gato and other volunteers can work to help control this population, and feral cats generally either a) avoid humans or b) approach humans gently, and do not generally cause danger to tourists.</p>
1368	<p>I ask that the NPS reconsider the proposal to remove the cats within Paseo Del Morro. Although I do not live in Puerto Rico, it is one of my favorite places in the world to visit and the cats that have greeted me there have truly made my trips memorable.</p> <p>The cats of Old San Juan seem well cared for with the help of Save A Gato and you can tell throughout the city with the numerous food bowls and water bowls that these cats have a fighting chance. Also of course through the trap neuter and release program.</p> <p>The efforts to move these cats would not only produce stress and heart break to a home they once knew, but it seems unnecessary. Cats are creatures of habit and this type of change would be detrimental.</p> <p>I appreciate your consideration.</p>
1369	Queremos a los gatos vivos

Corr ID	Correspondence
1370	<p>I was made aware of this effort by one of my employees whose partner is a native to the area. Though our situations are different, the outcome is the same. Too often well-meaning individuals attempt to reduce feral cat populations at the expense of the animal versus placing the efforts and resources where they belong - on the community. Countless research on TNR has shown that colonies are most humanely controlled through TNR. It takes communication, financial resource allotment and a change in community culture. It would seem short sighted to think the solution is rounding up the current population. You don't have a feral cat problem; you have a culture problem. Here in Oklahoma we have nonexistent spay and neuter laws and are dismal at prosecuting pet abandonment. We will continue to be until we stop placing the blame on the animals who suffer our consequences. Use this opportunity to educate the public on TNR, encourage the community to work together to spay and neuter, and work with local rescue to bolster their efforts. Even with an initial effort to clear out the cats, you will have more until you work to change the community's view of animal care. You will spend more time chasing down feral cats when you could have a beautiful educational opportunity to make your park a shining example of partnership and participation. Let's stop punishing animals for humans mistakes.</p>
1371	<p>Es injusto lo que quieren hacer con esos gatos! ellos tienen derecho a vivir como el ser humano ellos sienten y padecen. Ellos merecen VIVIR</p>
1372	<p>Though not native to the island, the cats are as historic as the Paseo itself being brought to the island by the people that built el Morro. That aside, removing the cats would be destructive to the community, environment, and public health.</p> <p>Proof that TNR does work in an unclosed system is the &quot;Alley Cat Allies' Atlantic City Boardwalk Cats Project.&quot; Their project is responsible for a two-mile boardwalk and oceanside which is directly comparable to the size of The Paseo Del Morro Trail. Their program collaborated with the director of the city's health department to create a plan to educate the public and provide the medical services necessary to decrease colony size; reporting that no kittens have been born in over a decade.</p> <p>Though the reception to the cats can vary, it can't be undermined that the cats themselves are a draw to many and can increase tourism. The addition of signage to educate the public about the program and the history of the cats will improve public opinion and improve the visitor experience. In tandem with improving perception, it would also aid in making the program more successful and more self-funding as a new widespread audience will be encouraged to volunteer, donate and/or adopt.</p> <p>In terms of the health and safety of the cats and humans, rabies can be vaccinated against and the cats wounds can be treated. The cats themselves are a resolution for another invasive species that pose an even greater risk to human health and safety, the rats. Removing the cats would simply increase the rat population, which can also spread the listed diseases and parasites exponentially; the rats reproduce at a much larger rate and can enter local businesses and homes undetected. In addition to being able to burrow and compromise the ecological and structural integrity of el Morro and its grounds.</p> <p>A shorter lifespan is expected as they are not getting routine medical care and intervention. However, the difference in lifespan is not drastic; With many cats in the aforementioned program thriving and exceeding the average lifespan; consequently, more time is required for a great impact on the population to be seen.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Truly the most humane solution for the land, cats, and global community that has grown to love them would be to further invest the resources that would've been allocated for removal into the Save A Gato project just as the Atlantic City government did in its program to much success.
1373	It is hard to put into words how tactless and evil this proposal comes across. For a government agency to jump right to killing cats instead of trying to make the situation better is heartless. If rodents in the cat food is a problem then work with save a gato to find a solution. I have seen videos on tick tock on how to make cat feeders for stray cats so they don't attract bugs. I hope in the end you will see the outpouring of love people here have for the cats and come to a compromise. I know it is likely all of the pleadings messages will be ignored, that was clear by how you handled the town hall meeting. I don't know anywhere else you can go on a walk by the water and see cats and iguanas! I hope you choose to preserve that unique and special pice of Viejo San Juan.
1374	<p>Sacar a Los Gatos del viejo San Juan no es la solución a la sobrepoblación de animales que hay no solo en San Juan si no en todo el país, promover la adopción si es una opción. Por que querer sacarlos después de años?, es una vida y hay que respetarlas. Esterilizar y castrar a Los Gatos si es una opción.</p> <p>Empecemos por educar a las personas sobre la adopción y la sobrepoblación de los animales, para que así no haigan tantos animales en la calle. Y los refugios no estén llenos y poder trasladar los animales de la calle a refugios para que sean adoptados. Es un proceso largo pero se debe hacer.</p>
1375	NO ESTOY DE ACUERDO EN QUE HAGAN ESTO! Esos gatos han estado ahí durante años, no le hacen daño a nadie! Al contrario se ve como una buena caridad que le tengan comida, agua y casa a los pobres animales. ¿Por que sacarlos? ¿Por que hacerles daño? Es solo un paseo por Dios!
1376	Stop the plan of euthanizing the cats of Old San Juan. There are organizations that take care of those cats with the TNR program. They deserve to live because they are taken care of with a lot of sacrifice. Make the government of Puerto Rico responsible for not taking actions against the overpopulation of abandoned animals.
1377	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I recently learned about the attempts to remove the cats in old San Juan. Being a Puerto Rican who lived on the mainland, i look forward every trip to visiting them and the save a gato organization. I am disgusted that this is even an issue worth considering being that us humans are partially to blame for there being so many stray cats in the area. They add character and so much joy to that little part of old San Juan and do not understand what they could be doing so wrong that they need to be removed. Puerto Rico has so many issues and it's comical that the government is so concerned about poor helpless cats who just need some help.</p>
1378	Why would we Eliminate or change a touristic part of san juan and evict cats who have done nothing wrong. TNR works and it has worked for centuries.
1379	Si una organización ya se está responsabilizando de estos gatos y los está cuidando, dándoles el cuidado necesario, porque salir de ellos???? Son animales que nunca han hecho ningún daño a lo que es el VSJ e incluso han traído beneficios como lo es el mantener el VSJ libre de roedores y otros animales que podrían traer enfermedades peligrosas a nosotros. Como estudiante dentro de el campo de salud animal es una lástima que estén proponiendo una idea así cuando son animales que nunca han causado problemas en el viejo San Juan. Son seres

Corr ID	Correspondence
	vivos, merecen tener una buena vida. Estoy definitivamente en contra de su propuesta. Déjenlos quietos. El
1380	Dejen a los gatitos vivir en paz y en comunidad. Son parte de San Juan y no le hacen daño a nadie. Yo amo a esos gatitos y pienso que el paseo pierde mucho carácter si pierde a los gatos.. también me imagino que aparecerán más ratas y animales peores. Mejor dejar a los gatitos.
1381	Being a veterinary technician from the states involved in the TNR program, I can speak in favor of what the TNR program is accomplishing in San Juan, and the island as a whole. TNR is a very beneficial practice for both the cats and the citizens of the city. The entire process is funded by donations and out of pocket by those rescue groups willing to put the time in. It does not cost the government anything to fix or look after the cats. It sterilizes the cats so they are unable to keep procreating and also keeps them healthy by not increasing the risk of infection or disease. The cats are helpful in hunting actual invasive species and food/garbage that is probably left on the streets by HUMANS. If you remove the population of cats, or colonies, from their permanent locations, it creates a "vacuum effect" that only invites new cats, unfixed, and predators to take over the area. In turn, it keeps the city clean, free of prey species such as rodents. It keeps the spread of disease and infection out of the city which could be spread to domesticated cats and dogs. If the cats aren't harming any humans physically, they should be left alone to go about their lives as we do. They are a living species just like humans and deserve respect and the chance to live on the lands that they once freely roamed without human intervention. The frequent human interaction these cats get also allows them to become more sociable and friendly amongst humans and could have the potential for them to be adopted and find homes inside where they can be safer. As mentioned previously, the responsibility of care and treatment does not fall on the government at this time and if the government was to step in and provide funding to help increase the amount of spays and neuters, the area could be cleaner at a faster rate.
1382	As a tourist visiting many countries, especially Puerto Rico, I anticipate seeing all the TNR stray cats. It's something to look forward to. They are sweet animals and never bother, just coexist. As long as I see that ear tip I know that they are fixed and being cared for. I have spoken to many people that also enjoy seeing the cats roam the city.
1383	To Whom it May Concern, I have read that the Parks Service has considered removing/eliminating the cats in and around Paseo del Morro. This is very disheartening. I live in Michigan and have visited PR many times. Before my first trip, I read about the kitties that reside in this area. Upon further research, I found out that they are a 20 year fixture and are very well taken care of by Save a Gato. Not once, in my travels to this area have I had a bad encounter with any cat. They are welcoming and beautiful. As I strolled around Paseo del Morro, others commented on how beautiful the cats are. I learned about Save a Gato and their incredible efforts to keep the cats safe, clean and healthy. I have volunteered at Save a Gato and have complete respect for the people who tend to the cats. The cats deserve to live in peace. It's not their fault that they have no home except for Paseo del Morro. Save a Gato has provided spay and neutering from donations. The volunteers care and love the cats as do I. I find no logical reason for the removal of the cats. The cats do not deserve to be removed/eliminated. They are not vermin. Please reconsider this idea and focus on supporting these beautiful cats as Save a Gato has been doing. They are a part of Puerto Rico.
1384	If the cats are vaccinated ,healthy and have ubicated in a zone where they are under supervision, tha cats don't need be remove

Corr ID	Correspondence
1385	Dejo aquí mi comentario para poder expresar porque no deberían de eliminar los gatitos de mi Viejo San Juan. Llevo desde pequeña y que conste TODAVÍA haciendo trips y caminatas junto a mi familia, amistades, mi pareja y hasta sola. Yo amante a Los Gatos, tengo 3 gatos en mi hogar. Lo encuentro un poco absurdo para ser bien honesta que los remuevan, Los Gatos son lo que le dan carácter al Viejo San Juan, la cantidad de turistas que he conocido y he tenido la experiencia de hablar de como ellos están sorprendidos de la cantidad de gatos y que aman la manera en cómo este gran pueblo y capital de Puerto Rico han dado hogar y la comodidad de estos animalitos a poder ser libres ha sido inexplicable, había escuchado y tuve el placer de conocer a un turista que vino aquí no solo para apreciar nuestra cultura pero para tener la experiencia de ver a "the cutest cats of the old San Juan" cómo mismo el me dijo y son palabras que tengo marcado en mi memoria. Cada a vez que camino aprecio cada gatito que encuentro en mi camino y le doy el cariño que se merecen. Y ni una sola vez me he enfermado ni me he sentido rara después de tocar uno. Sería una gran pena y sería una tristeza extremadamente grandísima para nosotros boricuas amantes de Gatos que los removieran. Van a hacer el viejo San Juan verse vacío y sabiendo que lo harían se dejan ver mucho y no de una buena manera, hablo por mi y por todos que están en contra de esta decisión. Estos gatos están cómodos, acostumbrados y seguros donde están y donde siempre estarán que es ahí en el Viejo San Juan. They wouldn't harm nobody dependiendo si viene un ser humano a molestarlo tienen su derecho a defender también. Los animales y incluyen a gatos en este caso son igual que nosotros y merecen su espacio y vivienda para ser libres como se supone que sea desde un principio.
1386	Los Gatos no le hacen daño a nadie. El Gobierno deba apoyar a organizaciones como Save a Gato y otras para que se controle la sobre población. No se deben eliminar.
1387	Our cats are residents of Old SJ. Many are loving and make the area a better and beautiful place. In addition, they do a great job in controlling rat pests. They are well cared for and maintained thanks to the entities dedicated to these cats and the residents themselves. Another alternative route should be taken to help with the overpopulation problem, not choose to take their lives.
1388	Los gatitos del Viejo San Juan no le hacen mal a nadie. Son amorosos y mantienen el control de plagas en dicho lugar. Save a Gato siempre se ha comprometido en mantener el control de ellos y nunca ha dejado de hacerlo. ¿Por qué querer sacarlos? No hay razón alguna. Mi gato es rescatado de Viejo San Juan a través de Saves a Gato y como dije han hecho una labor excelente. NO A LA REMOCIÓN DE GATITOS
1389	My family and I strongly oppose the proposed removal of the cats in old San Juan. They are a cultural staple in old San Juan. They are cared for and looked after. Removing them is wasteful and unnecessary.
1390	The cats other than bringing live to the city, have the MoST important function of keeping the rat population under control. We very much need the cats. Save a Gato does a wonderful job at maintaining them.
1391	Los Gatos llevan años viviendo de manera estable en San Juan y no deberían ser sacados de su pequeño hogar. En mi opinion ellos son algo representativo en el Viejo San Juan
1392	No deberian hacer algo tan cruel con animales ta especiales
1393	We love the old San Juan gatos!!! They are part of the community!!
1394	Cats from el Viejo San Juan have lived there freely and safely for years. All of the cats are super friendly and well taken care of. The organization "Save a Gato" makes it their priority and mission to take care of the cats living in Viejo San Juan. They are fed, they are provided

Corr ID	Correspondence
	with vaccines and all the needs they may need. It is inhumane and unacceptable to get rid or euthanize these innocent creatures that bring joy and ambiance to tourism and the city itself. We, the puertorricans will fight until the end for our beliefs and we ask you nicely and from the bottom of our hearts to please end this plan to get rid of the cats. They are innocent little animals which also help the city to be free of rats and other pesticides that could affect the well being of the city and the people. Cats are part of El Viejo San Juan and it's culture, they have lived there for years and it would be inhumane and cruel to take them out of there and worse, euthanize them when they have never done something wrong or have been a problem, a threat or an issue to the city. Please we are begging to not do this and let the foundations take care of the cats like they have been doing for years now. Please!
1395	Cat's shouldn't be killed, they should be rescued
1396	Esos gatos no son una amenaza para nosotros !!!     Ellos merecen quedarse en el viejo San Juan !!! Sin ellos el viejo San Juan no sería lo mismo !!! Ellos le dan vida a la calles 
1397	Saludos! En Puerto Rico, hay un área muy común de turismo y es el Viejo San Juan, donde viven los animales del pueblo, de la comunidad. Estos animales deben tener el derecho de tener su espacio en la naturaleza. No molestan a nadie y son parte de ds la belleza de nuestra isla. #proteccionanuestrogatos
1398	Por favor no maten ni remuevan a estos animales que estan bien cuidados no hacen daño y traen felicidad a la gente. No hay necesidad que remover a estos animales. Por favor dejenlo en paz y la Comunidad esta y estara haciendo exellente trabajo y lo seguira haciendo. Dirijan su atencion a otras necesidades y proyectos quw si necesitan su atencion.
1399	We support our Old San Juan cats! It's outrageous what it's being proposed to manage the OSJ cat population. Save a Gato had been key in helping, controlling and educating our community about the importance of creating a safe environment for our felines. For years, not only our residents and visitors, but also tourists have been learning through the way we treat our animals an important part of our community. The felines of OSJ are our residents, our family! We take care of them, they are ours. You do not separate your family, you do not segregate nor kill them, what is the reason after all these years? Do not touch our feline family.
1400	Ellos merecen vivir, llevan ahí por años... Entonces ¿Porque ahora querer sacrificarlos? Ese es su hogar y como muchos paises hacen les dan comida y los tratan bien pero claro en Puerto Rico solo quieren matarlos. Ellos tienen sentimientos y quitarles la vida asi es MALTRATO. ¡Respeten todo tipo de vida!
1401	Please respect the lives of those cats. I oppose any plan that threatens their lives.
1402	Don't euthanized the cats.
1403	Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas.
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1405	Please do not kill the cat colony of San Juan. These cats are an integral part of the historic old city, and part of Puerto Rican culture and heritage. NPS coming in to kill the cats is peak

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>colonialism. Applying a one-size-fits-all approach from other American parks is racist and colonialist mindset. This isn't Yosemite. We aren't talking about bears and wild animals. The cats here do not attack anyone - no one believes that venal lie. Cats don't bother anyone. If you leave them alone, they leave you alone, it's that simple. Getting "attacked" by a free-ranging cat is a you-problem, not a them-problem.</p> <p>The cats keep the rodent and other vermin population of San Juan in check. This is the only city in America where we are not overrun by rats, mice, and cockroaches. Let's keep it that way. Let the cats do their job.</p> <p>The cats are a major tourist attraction. Look around and you'll see hundreds of tourists a day taking pictures of them, petting them, watching them, and being fascinated by them. They add color and beauty to the landscape. They are more popular than El Morro or San Cristobal.</p> <p>An alternate solution to extermination of the cats is to let them live. They aren't bothering anyone, but are a major tourist attraction, keep Old San Juan free of vermin, and provide beauty and character to this place. If NPS wants to help, they can provide additional assistance to Save A Gato, which is doing a remarkable job with TNR, adoption, fostering, and keeping the cats healthy and safe. NPS should set up donation areas where tourists can donate to the cat colony preservation. They can direct tourists to volunteer with Save A Gato. Above all, please LISTEN to the residents of San Juan. You are government employees, and are supposed to serve the people. You aren't tyrants that can come in and do as you please. You must LISTEN and RESPECT the local population.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
1406	The cats of Old San Juan are as much a part of the park as it's storied residents are. Without them, the pests they prey on will overpopulate the area, leading to decreased tourism in such a popular and historic area.
1407	Removing the cats from the place they know as home is inhumane, they are not hurting anyone by being there.
1408	En esta misiva quiero en primer lugar agradecer a las personas y organizaciones sobretodo "Save a Gato" que hacen posible que todos estos gatos de Viejo San Juan sean operados y de esta manera evitamos la sobrepoblación que hay a nivel isla. Quiero dejar claro que gracias a estos gatos el problema de ratas en Viejo San Juan está controlado. Tenemos muchos restaurantes y negocios que se podrían ver muy afectados si se llevan los gatos. Las ratas definitivamente se quedarían con la ciudad y con ellas traerán muchísimas enfermedades que terminarían enfermando tanto a los residentes como a los turistas que nos visitan. Estas transmiten enfermedades como la leptospirosis, SPH, la coriomeningitis linfocítica, la peste y el tifus. La importancia que tienen los gatos en el Viejo San Juan es vital, por tú salud, por la de nuestros hijos, por nuestra salud, necesitamos que se queden nuestros felinos quienes son los protagonistas en los álbumes de fotos de turistas y de locales cada vez que se pasean una tarde por el Viejo San Juan. Que no te gusten los gatos en Viejo San Juan es una cosa y que usemos nuestro intelecto para darle la importancia que merecen a estos felinos quienes nos mantienen lejos de plagas es otra. Una vez más gracias a todos los que cuidan de los felinos en el Viejo San Juan.
1409	POR FAVOR NO TERMINEN CON LA VIDA DE ESTOS GATITOS!!! NO LE ESTÁN HACIENDO DAÑO A NADIE, A LA MIERDA EL TURISMO!!! ELLOS SON PARTE DE NUESTRA ISLA!!!! NO ES NADA JUSTO!!!!!!

Corr ID	Correspondence
1410	<p>Our kitties are residents of Old San Juan. Many are very loving and make this area a better place. In addition, they do a great job in controlling rat pests. They are well cared for and maintained thanks to the various entities dedicated to these cats and the residents of Old San Juan themselves. Another alternative route should be taken to help with the overpopulation problem, not choose to take their lives. I recommend that the kitties should have sanctuary that they should be transferred to and could be a place where people feel loved by our beloved kitties of San Juan.</p>
1411	<p>Cat are living beings. Don't make them suffer unnecessarily. They deserve respect, love and our care. Don't remove the cats in Old San Juan. They've become part of our city and it's because of irresponsible humans that they are there, it's not their fault. Please don't remove them. We love them. One of my favorite thing is going to old San Juan and watch them or pet them.</p>
1412	<p>November 18, 2022 To: Superintendent, San Juan National Historic Site</p> <p>Subject: Comments for the Public Scoping Period for the "Free-ranging Cat Management Plan Environmental Assessment" at San Juan National History Site Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Management Plan.</p> <p>I am writing to SUPPORT THE PARK'S PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE :CAT REMOVAL.</p> <p>Trap Neuter & Release (TNR) back into the park is not only against NPS Policy but would ignore the large body of work that demonstrates the impacts on native wildlife. Your attempts to allow this are understandable but, not surprisingly, not sustainable.</p> <p>My comments are from two perspectives: as a person who has raised several indoor cats and found homes for many "feral" domestic cats over my lifetime, and also as a former Chief of Natural Resources Management for George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) and subsequently as the Deputy chief and .Acting Chief of Natural Resources & Science for the NPS National Capitol Region.</p> <p>I have reviewed the EA as well as some of the support documents such as the Foundation Document and the Cat Monitoring Plan.</p> <p>As part of my duties at GWMP, after public concerns for a fed group of cats along the Potomac River in Fairfax County, Virginia, I lead the park in assessing options for the future actions regarding the cats. After many months of meetings, study, monitoring and consulting with national, state and local authorities and academics on the need to address the feral cat problem, the park enacted a cat removal plan that was time-consuming but effective. That plan was enacted in 1993 and all cats were removed by September of 1994. A lawsuit brought against the NPS removal actions was dismissed in federal court as "Moot." I have visited that site a few times over the subsequent almost 3 decades and have found no evidence of continued use by resident feral domestic cats. At the conclusion of our removal action not only did we find no remaining cats, but we found the traps had native wildlife, raccoons skunks and opossums which we immediately released back into the environment. I mention that point because some groups argue that removal of kept colonies of cats results in a "vacuum effect" and new cats will move into and fill this "vacuum." That characterization is an unfortunate use of a wildlife management theory. With regard to at least some non-native species such as cats, the vacuum is filled with native species that cannot compete with the non-native species that receives food and shelter supplements at the expense of the native species. In the case of the cats at GWMP, we also found an increase in rat activity exhibited by rat burrows around feeding stations as well as observations by field personnel. I should</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>mention that though webcams were not available to us in the 1990's we conducted a photo inventory of the cats and thought there were About a dozen but when we trapped, we fund there were many more. This is due, in part, to what your monitoring plan mentioned, that cats of a family, have similar marking and are not easily discernable from one another. There is more data today than in 1994, but the best science shows continued evidence that managed feral r fee-ranging cats might be better than non-managed but can still be inhumane and certainly does not address the significant impacts to native wildlife and ecosystems. Even urban and suburban ecosystems can be and are important reservoirs for native species habitat. Removing non-native cats is one element of improving this habitat for natives which sometimes need those reservoirs as stopovers in long migratory routes as well as places for rearing young.</p> <p>I understand the park's previous determination to work with a group to implement a TNR program but none really deal with the issues you are trying to correct, disease, smell, wildlife impacts and humane places for non-native, domesticated cats to live.</p> <p>I cannot comment on any past, current or potential impacts to Puerto Rico's threatened, endangered or at-risk species in the park but assume the park and community are aware if there are any impacts and the park will address or has addressed those impacts in the proposed action.</p> <p>I should also mention that working with the state of Virginia and county, both of which supported our plan to remove the cats, rabies, toxoplasmosis and other diseases were a real concern both because of the location of the fed cats, in and around a public picnic area on the river, but also in general in a public park. People including children, assume domesticated cats are like pets and are approachable and, disease free. That is not always the case and rarely, if ever can be proven. In addition, the location between a tidal portion of the river and a roadway meant that cats living in riprap along the shore were susceptible to drowning in high tides and being run over and killed by cars. When a person adopts a pet at a shelter, one generally has to agree to assure the animal will be kept in a safe place with shelter and protection. That was not the case in our park with dumped cats that some groups prepared to become a Trap-Neuter-Release project. We could not find any TNR programs that were successful for our goal of removing cats from the environment. Along with that concern is the question of who owns or is the caregiver for the cat and who is liable if the cat bites a visitor or nearby resident. All these concerns were discussed as part of the GWMP plan and lawsuit that stemmed from the removal plan.</p> <p>I am happy to discuss my experiences with that program with your staff at it led to. any time. As a person who has cared for pet cats for decades and placed feral cats to be raised indoors in safe homes, I want the best for companion pets as well as wildlife. There is no proof that an indoor cat is any less "happy" or satisfied than a free-ranging cat. Certainly, a feral cat is exposed to a greater variety of stimulus but not necessarily more stimulus. That all depends on the circumstances. I have personally watched cats in parks stalk, catch and kill wildlife. This has also been documented by research though it is difficult to do. I saw a pile of rabbit bunnies and birds deposited by a pet cat when its owner moved from an apartment to care for a historic farm. Them cat was an abandoned tiny kitten when it was found and had not been outside since it was several months old, yet in a few weeks it quickly learned to kill wildlife even though it was well-fed.</p> <p>I could add more information, but I believe if the plan is done in coordination with knowledgeable and caring local authorities, coupled with clear education and media information, the park can show that these conditions are not ethical for wildlife in a park and historic site setting nor humane in the long-term for the cats and the wildlife they prey upon. I understand and sympathize with those who care for cats, I am one of them, and especially for</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	those who have found a way to channel their love of cats into these feral cats, but those must be balanced with policy and care for wildlife that cannot flee to place where they will be provided with constant food and shelter by humans by the very fact they are wild and need our care for their habitat so they can thrive.
1413	<p>The stray feline population has been a community mainstay in Old San Juan for decades. Instead of removing these creatures from their current environments, a much better proposal is to develop an initiative to better fund feline sanctuaries in the area and even develop a sanctuary right in the grounds where the cats are currently located.</p> <p>These cats have controlled the vermin population, provide comfort for local residents, and have become too engrained into the community to simply remove them all together. The plan to take them away is ridiculous and shortsighted. I implore you to think of something better.</p>
1414	<p>GENOCIDE is what this program is about to commit. The cats of old sj have been part of the beauty, history and culture between our people for generations ! They are the ones responsible for making the streets rat safe and full of beauty because literally no one ever has complained of a cat attack in OLD SJ, they're all very grateful and loving with strangers. Do not do this. I'm sure no puertorican is behind this mass morder agenda.</p>
1415	<p>GENOCIDIOOOOOOOOOOOO Esto es asesinar animales inofensivos Los puertorriqueños NO APOYAMOS ESTO.</p>
1416	<p>I would like to register strong support for the cats on the Paseo del Morro and my support to find a way to keep them. On a recent visit to PR, I found their presence on my walk to be the definition of &quot;encanto&quot; and they left a very positive impression.</p> <p>Please help preserve & protect them - their presence is special & valuable!</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>
1417	<p>Hello. Thanks for the opportunity to express our concerns abiut the cat situation in VSJ. First off all the cats have never been a problem to any citizens for various years. There are various organizations that take the cats and sterilize them so the population will decrease eventually. I remember before the cats arrived VSJ was INFESTED with rats. I have not seen a rat in years. This comes as a wave of mainland americans come here to a land and instead of working together with locals, they just want to do as they please. There is no health issue arising from the cats but there are with rats. Extermination of hundreds of animals is not something that puertorican, in and out of old san juan, want. Please do not cause anymore tension between colonizers and the local population by killing innocent animals. Thank you for you time.</p>
1418	<p>Hello. Thanks for the opportunity to express our concerns abiut the cat situation in VSJ. First off all the cats have never been a problem to any citizens for various years. There are various organizations that take the cats and sterilize them so the population will decrease eventually. I remember before the cats arrived VSJ was INFESTED with rats. I have not seen a rat in years. This comes as a wave of mainland americans come here to a land and instead of working together with locals, they just want to do as they please. There is no health issue arising from the cats but there are with rats. Extermination of hundreds of animals is not something that puertorican, in and out of old san juan, want. Please do not cause anymore tension between colonizers and the local population by killing innocent animals. Thank you for you time.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1419	<p>There is absolutely NO need to euthanize the cats of old San Juan. They are LIVING BEINGS. Catch and release them. Spay and neuter them all to reduce the increase in popularion. Use the money that would be allocated to euthanizing them to a catch and release program. Don't. Kill. Them. It's inhumane. Literally. To rob them of the choice to live or not is cruel and unnecessary. Most of these cats have been around for generations and the idea of euthanizing them does not sit right in my spirit. Please exercise some compassion and take responsibility for the fact that the government hasn't been fulfilling its duty which is who the population has been allowed to grow this much in the last years. It's not the cats' fault. Take responsibility by catching and releasing them. NOT by euthanizing/murdering them. Thank you.</p>
1420	<p>The cats in the area of Old San Juan that are now being threatened are all under the cage of Save a Gato organization. They are spayed and are fed daily by volunteers. There ir no reason of justification for a cat mass murder to be the solution for this &quot;problem&quot;. If they are spayed they will not reproduce which means the population will control itself by our donations and interventions.</p> <p>Real solutions would we to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alocate more funds for spaying, feeding and general vet care. 2. Have regular maintenance and cleaning of this streets, like should already be done in a more constant and visible manner. <p>As well as other alternatives I am sure Save a Gato has presented.</p>
1421	<p>Los gatos al igual que cualquier otro animal son seres vivos que merecen la oportunidad de vivir y no ser sacrificados. Ayudan a mantener un control de las plagas. Tál vez se pueda llegar a un acuerdo y organizar un evento, promoverlo y brindar la oportunidad de que las personas los adopten.</p>
1422	<p>Los gatitos han estado por año rondando el viejo San Juan, no han echo de ningún daño en lo absoluto y considero que así debería quedarse, también protegen el eco sistema de ratones, insectos y etc.</p> <p>Salven a nuestros gatitos!</p>
1423	<p>The cats are a part of Viejo San Juan. They make Viejo San Juan the place that it is because it is not only full of human life; but also with animals who care for our environment and make the place feel like a home. Unless you want rats running around everywhere as if it was NYC, LET THE CATS EXIST IN OLD SAN JUAN IN PEACE, IT IS THEIR HOME</p>
1424	<p>-Humans carry many more diseases than cats</p> <p>-Cats are considered "spirit beings" in many cultures and many countries</p> <p>-Sanctuaries are built everywhere in the world to protect these spiritual beings</p> <p>-Offensive for traditional medicine practitioners, healers, and shamans that you consider them disposable.</p> <p>Shame on you!</p>
1425	<p>Todo por los gatitos!!</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1426	These cats were a highlight of our trip to Old San Juan. These souls deserve respect and clemency. Italy also has cats as a main attraction. Without problems. Better go after corrupt politicians before attacking innocent souls.
1427	What this proposal doesn't mention is what will happen to the cats if they are removed. Presumably they will be euthanized. People will continue to abandon cats, even if these cats are euthanized, more will appear and the cycle of overpopulation will begin again. I hope that NPS will continue to work with Save a Gato to develop a humane solution that will allow the cats at San Juan National Historic Site to have a home. People say cats are an invasive species but it's humans who brought them into the environment and we have a responsibility to care for them.
1428	Los gatos en San Juan son amados, no le hacen daño a nadie y los necesitamos para controlar la población de las ratas. Mantienen el área limpia de roedores. No atacan a nadie, lo que se necesita es hacer conciencia en el pueblo de dejar de abandonar a sus gatos allí y darle más ayuda a save de gato y hacer un programa para que la gente sepa que se puede ser voluntario. El gobierno no a tomado responsabilidad, la a tomado el pueblo y no queremos que tomen una decisión macabra contra gatos que no tienen la culpa. Queremos a los gatos en el viejo san Juan, patrimonio de los boricuas.
1429	Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas.
1430	A simple look at the scientific literature available on cat removals on urban spaces will lead you to find out that such removals will lead to infestations of rats, mice and other undesirable animals. The cat colony in Viejo San Juan is perhaps the best colony of cats in all of PR, they are sterilized, healthy and well fed. They are a joy to pet and to photograph. These cats have been inspiration for the songs of artists and are a staple of San Juan art. They are part of our city. A better world cannot be built upon human cruelty nor on the negation of the right of others species to live in this beautiful planet. But if you wish to ignore the scientific data and the public sentiment, know that you every cat you kill will bring you 7 years bad luck.
1431	P
1432	This is absolutely despicable and horrendous. If you go through with this, your instant karma will be the rat invasion that will follow. Who do you think keeps the rat population under control.
1433	The news of this program to eliminate the cats of the old city is an outrageous proposal. As a resident of Old San Juan, the cats, are part of our history and daily life. Several associations plus neighborhood groups had maintained the cats healthy and safe for years and years. Extermination is not the answer; thus can be managed in a humane, empathetic way like it has been done for decades
1434	Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas.
1435	I have relatively large back yard and most of my neighbors have larger yards, all busy with birds and bees, wasps, and all kinds of bugs. By far the biggest danger to any of the songbirds

Corr ID	Correspondence
	and "pretty" birds are other birds like crows, ravens and chicken hawks attacking them. Not the cats that roam and wander over from one yard to the other yards.
1436	<p>To whom it may concern</p> <p>These are the lives of adorable kittens and cats that do not deserve to be removed from their home. As neighbors and citizens care for them, the government should not take that away.</p>
1437	<p>I am a cat lover; however, I see why this cat population needs to be removed as it is not a closed system like Lanai Cat Sanctuary in Lanai, HI.</p> <p>I agree with NPS proposal 2 for humane removal of the cats. NO POISONS of any kind or inhumane traps should be used.</p> <p>The current GATO rescue org should be involved in the removal guidelines, and monitor all of it to make sure it is done humanely.</p> <p>There needs to be an impartial contact name, address, and phone number where people can go if there are any complaints about the removal process.</p>
1438	<p>Deberian penalizar a las personas que abandonaron a esos gatitos ahi . La Comunidad ha hecho un buen trabajo en esterilizar a esos gaticos. Por ninguna razón se debe matar a un gato, es algo que no se debe hacer. Por favor no hagan esta massacre. Ellos (los gatitos) no tienen la culpa de que sus humanos los abandonaron. Ellos ayudan a que el Viejo san juan sea un sitio aun mas hermoso, los gatos son animales cariños y magicos. Aprendamos de Turkia. Seamos parte de lla solucion..</p> <p>Ustedes se pasaran la vida asesinando gatos , por que en Puerto Rico el abandono de animales es una plaza. Nadie se quiere hacer responsable. Por favor no lo hagan.</p>
1439	<p>Please do not kill the cats of OSJ, they are part of the history of its town being there for many many years. These cats have been neutered with much work from Save a Gato, these cats are as much part of Old San Juan as El Morro or any other historic landmark. Please don't be complicit to murder these poor and innocent animals who have not done any harm to anyone.</p>
1440	<p>I am concerned on the plans to remove the cats from Paseo Del Morro. Being that these cats and under a productive TNR program and greatly taken care of, there is no reason to exile this community of cats. The pamphlets given out provide false information about the success of the Save a Gato program being that it has been a great success. These cats have been of population much longer than anything else and to say they do not belong is horribly wrong. These cats provide so much happiness to travelers and locals and many come just to visit. They are friendly and clean and do not propose any harm to humans as the pamphlet also reports. Thank you for being open for comments and please have heart for these kind animals. Give them grace and give them hope. Thank you,</p>
1441	<p>Hi there, Im writing because whatever you do with the cats, don't get rid of them please. There are ways to help by spy/neuter the cags already there and give them treatments to help them be healthy. Please they are part of our culture, they have always been. These cats are always happy and they greet visitors making people happy. Do not remove our sweet cats. There are ways to help that don't include the removal. Please these cats are part of us!!!! I live in the US now but when I visit PR and go to old san jun, the cats always brighten my day.</p>
1442	<p>Removing of cats does nothing to help save the cats it just makes the "problem" less easy to see. Well as a tourist who loves San Juan, who loves the cats in San Juan, and</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	thinks actually providing safe measures for the cats to live healthy lives, I would hate if the proposal goes through to simply remove them. Instead , investments should be made to actually help and not push away the problem. The work that places like Save a Gato are incredible and do more than this proposal.
1443	Please do not harm these cats, they are completely harmless and do not bother people in the streets of Old San Juan. Locals and tourists are very fond of them, and there are many organizations that help them get food and vet aid.
1444	<p>In the past years Puerto Rico has lost alot, from ecosystems to environmental treasures, and we keep losing more.</p> <p>Now we are about to lose a part of our beloved capital 'El Parque de los gatos', it's devastating to lose part of our history and the beings who helped keep us alive.</p> <p>Cats are a treasure to us, just like any other animal that has accompanied us humans since the beginning of time.</p> <p>These cats help prevent rodent/bug infestations and keep diseases away.</p> <p>I've been going to that park for years now, for a while I bought bags of food to serve them atleast a meal, these cats are not just a few, it's a family of them, a pack.</p> <p>People have stop caring for the park, but not for the cats, why should lives of the animals who have helped us live in peace for so long be affected.</p> <p>These cats don't deserve to be removed and murdered, the people are the problem, not the cats.</p> <p>If anything, the park should be fixed for the cats and maintain it in good condition.</p> <p>Just like they've done to us the cats are being killed for just existing.</p> <p>They where there first, it's their home, nobody elses.</p>
1445	The street cats in San Juan have been there for 100s of years. Please do not euthanize them. Please trap/neuter/release them or adopt them out. Thank you.
1446	I grew up visiting my grandparents in Calle Sol, Viejo San Juan. I remember the cats in the neighborhood being part of the community. They would roam around Viejo San Juan and looked well fed and happy. Of course, this was from a perspective of an 8 year old, but children usually know best to distinguish what is right from wrong. In fact, I now see my neighbor's cat in Huntington Beach, CA, spending the days looking out the window. You can feel the cat is suffering stuck indoors without a way to be out and free in the world. The cats in Viejo San Juan seem to have a better life than the cat next door. El Viejo San Juan is the home of these living beings. Humans need to respect these animals and learn how to live in harmony with them. The cats are not the issue. Humans are. If humans want to improve the lives of these cats, humans can invest in taking care of them. Killing is never the answer.
1447	<p>I imagine everyone reading this entered this field for the love of nature, all things wild, and ardent conservation. The cats of Old San Juan pre-date the National Park Service and are part of the natural history and environment of this beautiful city; as such, we have no right to remove them unless we are offering them a safer, kinder alternative like adoption or sterilization. We cannot cull history or tame the wild, and why should we want to? Isn't that what we love about it? The cats didn't ask to be brought there, but here they are: a beloved national treasure adored by tourists and residents. It's safe to say we, as shepherds of this planet, don't always make the most responsible decisions for our fellow Non-human Earthlings, but now we have a chance to right that and choose compassion and safe-keeping for the gatos.</p> <p>Besides, is this really based on some scratches and smell of urine from tourists? These are</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	surely not the supporters of the NPS, we are a more rugged bunch and would be staunchly opposed to interference with wildlife.
1448	Please do not remove and do not kill these cats. They do no harm, they control rat and mouse population, they are very well taken cared off by organizations like Save a gato. They are an attraction and recreation for locals like me and tourists. We are not the only place in the world to have many cats in an area, Japan have a cat island which is a very popular attraction. We are living in generation that love and respect animals like never before seen. We are all here sharing this same wonderful world. It is not ours, we need to learn to live with others and appreciate how wonderful it is to have other animals arounds us.
1449	Please allow the cats to stay. The goal should be to trap, neuter and release these cats to help prevent overpopulation. The cats protect against rodents, and deserve to stay. Save a gato foundation is very important to the community and is willing to help with the management of these cats. If you remove the cats you will see a huge increase in the population of rodents. What is worse, cats or rats? Thank you
1450	Please reconsider not to euthanize the cats of Old San Juan! You have no idea how many people come to PR just to see the cats in Old San Juan. Why not integrate them into the tourist experience? They are sentient beings and do not deserve to be killed off. As a tax paying citizen I am against euthanizing the cats of Old San Juan
1451	I've been to San Juan more times that i can count since i used to live for almost 8 years near the area and i have never seen any problem with the cats. Please do not remove or kill the cats, they dont do any harm to anyone. I really dont see the problem with them, besides they control the mouse population. Cats are almost like an attraction for tourist or even locals like myself. San Juan wouldnt be the same without them. So far i havent met anyone that disagree with me in this matter so please reconsider. With have organizations like save a gato that are constantly taking care of them.
1452	For so many years cats and dogs live in our streets. Many because of irresponsible people that abandon them. Others are just born there. These cats in particular are not offensive. I haven't seen nor heard any incident with them on the contriar they are friendly. Tourists and locals have been seen petting them even feeding them. Why would you want to take them out of there "home"? They keep plaques and unwanted rodents out. Do you want a historical place to be filled with rodents or plaques? Can we just give more attention to the felines like vaccines, a collar to specify they are taken care of, they are no harm to people. Hey they brighten up the place with there charm. I know I can understand some people don't like animals but as long as you don't harm them or threaten them they will not attack. Can we just please leave them there. There are other situations we really have to focused on here. Yes sir why not focuse on people who are homeless, the violence, the crimes even the corruption from politicians. I think that is a lot more important to focused on and I mention it with much respect. Do you have knowledge we have a zoo here and the animals are in poor shape. They aren't feed nor taken care of properly. That's another situation to look into. I can keep mentioning what we really need here. But the main is people who have hearts and care. Animals are part of our lives. Please just help us help them. Many blessings to all.
1453	Hello, I wanted to drop by and comment because right before Hurricane Maria hit, my best friend and I took a vacation of seven days to your beautiful island. We were so fortunate to get to see it right before the hurricane hit and it has been one of my favorite places I have traveled to date. The island is beautiful and so are the people. We stayed in Viejo San Juan and some of my favorite memories are of the cats living amongst the island. The first day we were

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>there, this stunning tabby cat came right up to us and we deemed him our Puerto Rico cat and told him so and saw him every single day for seven days before we left. When Hurricane Maria hit I was so distraught thinking he might not have survived, but a couple weeks later I saw him on Save A Gato's page and was thrilled!</p> <p>Our trip was spectacular, from the nicest locals to the delicious food on every corner, but what made the trip so special was seeing how the locals not only took care of the street cats, but how much they truly loved them. We saw it everyday for the seven days we were there; that is special. You do not see that many places and it warmed our hearts. I still keep up with Save A Gato through social media, so when I heard about the cats at el Paseo del Morro, it broke my heart to think that one of our favorite things about the island was going to be at jeopardy. I am back in the States now where I live, so the least that I can do is use my voice to speak up for this beautiful connection your island has with these cats.</p> <p>We were just tourists who vacationed in your beautiful home, but that trip will always be special to us because of the kindness we were shown and the uniqueness of locals and cats living as one. It is something so special about Viejo San Juan, so please consider this when making your decision about the cats. They truly are special and are apart of the island that makes it Viejo San Juan. Thank you so much for your time and ¡larga vida a los gatos!</p>
1454	<p>Saludos, referente a los gatos que estan en el area del Morro entiendo que puede ser una atracción turistica como en muchos otros paises del mundo. Los gatos son amigables en adición que la Organización Save a Gato los mantiene al dia con sus vacunas y esterilización. Espero puedan dejar estos hermosos animales en su area, me encanta verlos cada vez que visito el area del Viejo San Juan.</p>
1455	<p>Removal is not a long-term solution. It is not right to kill these animals.</p>
1456	<p>Save a Gato ha sido una organizacion que ha ayudado a miles de gatitos sin hogar a tener una mejor vida. Han sido años que ellos han ayudado y especialmente a los de San Juan, Puerto Rico. Ayudando a esterelizar alimentar, cuidar. Ha sido una obra maravillosa. Entiendo que no hay razón para sacarlos ya que el gobierno de Puerto Rico no hay muchos refugios para manejar la sobre poblacion de animales rialengos. Entiendo que no es un riesgo ya son gatos cuidados fielmente y que es un ejemplo para otros la labor y el cuidado que hacen</p>
1457	<p>Please do not change the current agreement you have with Save A Gato. They do wonderful work and their cat colony is a National treasure. It is the first place I go when I visit Puerto Rico. The joy these cats bring me and other guest is unrivaled. No where else in the world can you go to experience the love and mysteries of cats. I have adopted my wonderful cat Crucero from this colony and my life would not be the same without him. I will likely adopt another next time I visit. Save A Gato does a wonderful job find placement for these cats and adopts them out all over the country. They make the process feel effortless. Instead of spending money to eradicate the cat colony I would hope that you would consider giving more help to Save A Gato. As a taxpayer that is where I would prefer my money be spent rather than on trappers. I sincerely hope you do not destroy an organization that deserves to be uplifted and has literally helped the tourism industry in Puerto Rico. It will be a sad day for Puerto Rico should you decide to take action.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
1458	<p>I vacation in San Juan every year. I don't understand why it is felt that you need to manage the cats. Leave them alone or help Save a Gato with their TNR work. This will humanly control the amount of cats.</p>
1459	<p>Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas.
1460	<p>Please consider working closely with Save a Gato regarding the stray cat population in Old San Juan.</p> <p>They have worked tirelessly for over 20 years to manage by TNR these cats.</p> <p>And people love them! I, for one, can't wait to see them when we visit in a few weeks. They make this park special and memorable.</p> <p>It is our responsibility as humans to find a way to coexist.</p>
1461	It is absolutely unconscionable that the government would remove these cats and euthanize them. This has gotten a lot of press in the world is watching now. The cats are an integral part to the experience of this area. The right thing to do and the best thing to do is to support the TNR groups. I hope that you all will make the right decision.
1462	The cats in Viejo San Juan are part of our family and culture, killing them is killing us. And we will resent that for ever. Save a gato is taking excellent care of them, and they are taking excellent care of all the mice that lives in San Juan, of course you wouldn't know you're not from here but San Juan is full of mice and those cats are the only ones taking care of them.
1463	<p>Saludos,</p> <p>Soy residente en el Viejo San Juan y uno de los atractivos turísticos más hermosos que tenemos son los gatitos. Como todo hay áreas en las que no son bien cuidados o son abandonados en malas condiciones. En mi área de vivienda tenemos unos gatitos que son parte de nuestra familia, está bien alimentados, esterilizados y dóciles. Estamos teniendo problemas con extranjeros que han venido a vivir al área y que quiere deshacerse de nuestras mascotas que viven alrededor de nuestro entorno. Si vienes a vivir al Viejo San Juan, lamentablemente eso es parte por años de nuestra cultura. La propuesta sería más apropiada de mejorar la calidad de vida de los gatitos, su esterilización y ese dinero donarlo a entidades para que logren un Viejo San Juan más limpio...con matarlos y permitir la procreación de ratas y plagas no resolverán nada.</p>
1464	Dejen tranquilos a los gatos, ellos ayudan a controlar las ratas en la ciudad. Además, son una referencia turística, es hermoso pasear por el paseo la Princesa y encontrar a estas fabulosas criaturas . Más molesta el olor a orines y excrementos humanos, de esas personas irresponsables que se embriagan y hasta algunos con enfermedades como el COVID, infectan la ciudad. Ténganles compasión! 🙏 La ciudad se verá triste sin ellos. 🙏 GRACIAS!!
1465	The cat problem in Puerto Rico comes from lack of funds for massive sterilization and education about overpopulation of animals. The cats are lovely to watch. They will be picked up and others will follow. It would be terrible to euthanize them. There are organizations who sterilize and feed these animals. They are cared for by the supporters of such groups, such as myself. Please don't kill the cats!
1466	Please leave the cats as they are. I think the Save a Gato company is doing a fabulous job neutering, releasing, and caring for the cats. I traveled to Old San Juan specifically to see the cat nature walk and I would be devastated if the cats were removed. I think it's great that they're in a secluded area of nature away from the city itself. Please do not disturb them.
1467	Por favor no los maten.Estan esterilizados, los alimentan , les cuidan.Los gatos no son ningun peligro para la sociedad, el peligro son los humanos insencibles y malditos queclos

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>abandonan o matan sin piedad. POR FAVOR DEJENLOS AHI.TENGAN PIEDAD Y COMPASION.ESO QUE QUIEREN HACER ES MALTRATO ANIMAL.DONDE ESTA PETA Y DEMAS DEFENSORES DE LOS ANIMALES.</p>
1468	<p>Por favor no los maten.Estan esterilizados, los alimentan , les cuidan.Los gatos no son ningun peligro para la sociedad, el peligro son los humanos insencibles y malditos queclos abandonan o matan sin piedad. POR FAVOR DEJENLOS AHI.TENGAN PIEDAD Y COMPASION.ESO QUE QUIEREN HACER ES MALTRATO ANIMAL.DONDE ESTA PETA Y DEMAS DEFENSORES DE LOS ANIMALES.</p>
1469	<p>Hello, I read the proposal to kill the cats who live st San Juan National Historic Site with great dismay. Whenever my husband and I have visited San Juan, the cats there have been a real source of joy for us. I would actually consider them a bit of a tourist attraction in and of themselves. I wish that here in Boston we had such a large and healthy colony of outdoor cats, because we might have fewer rats if we did! In any event, I strongly oppose the idea of "managing" them in any way that is not limited to trapping, neutering/spaying, and releasing them ("TNR"). Organizations like Save a Gato have worked tirelessly towards this end for many years, and I hope that you might consider working with them to continue their efforts rather than exterminating the cats, who are actually a rather special part of Old San Juan. It honestly breaks my heart that that is even being considered. I would suggest putting whatever money would be spent on this misguided effort to exterminate the cats towards a working partnership with Save a Gato and other local organizations to TNR and care for the cats.</p>
1470	<p>The people of Save a Gato are doing a wonderful job by trapping, neutering and releasing these cats. Removing them is not going to solve the issue because more cats will come if they are not neutered. The cats of El Morro have become a tourist attraction and people from all over the world come to visit them. There are other places in the world which have big cats population and they have turned that into an asset, but of course, here you want to remove them. Please don't do that. What you can actually do is help this wonderful organization continue their work and help these beautiful animals.</p>
1471	<p>Thank you for taking the time to read my comment about the importance of supporting existing nonprofits and volunteers of the Paseo del Morro cat colony rather than NPS taking control of situation in a manner that is both potentially harmful to the current cat population and tourism.</p> <p>I personally have experience with the local cat colony in San Juan, beginning in 2018. While looking for a vacation spot, the reason Old San Juan won out over other islands and destinations was the nearness of the cat colony, managed by Save-A-Gato. My husband and I spent part of that trip volunteering with Save-A-Gato, and we were amazed by the dedication and compassion of the volunteers who run the successful TNR (trap and release) operation, while also adopting out kittens and adult cats. Even though I have worked with animal shelters in Indiana and Virginia, this was the first time I had been exposed to TNR. As I traveled to other states and countries with organizations trying to implement TNR (Turkey, Egypt, Cyprus, etc.), I realized just how successful Save-A-Gato's program is.</p> <p>I have made trips to San Juan since 2018 just to volunteer with Save-A-Gato because I believe so deeply in the work it is doing. With these trips, I have also contributed to the island's tourist economy -- staying in AirBnbs, dining at local restaurants, buying local art</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>and goods, and much more. In each of these trips, I meet other volunteers who either knew of Save-A-Gato before their trips or discovered it while in San Juan and decided to help. Because of my experience, people I know, who have never been to San Juan, have donated to Save-A-Gato and its work and have added San Juan to their list of vacation spots.</p> <p>As a tourist and witnessing other tourists reactions, the cats of the Old San Juan cat colony bring so much joy. The cats who make themselves known are friendly and not aggressive in any way. They offer a calming presence and add to warm culture of San Juan. I can't imagine strolling the streets of Old San Juan without seeing a happy, lazing cat in the sun.</p> <p>Instead of developing a new management plan for the cats of Paseo del Morro, time and resources would be better spent on supporting the current work of Save-A-Gato and its volunteers, who have already made a huge impact with extremely limited funds. As a concerned U.S. citizen, I also want to express my concern that cats under a new plan would be rid in an inhumane way, including using euthanasia.</p> <p>Old San Juan would lose so many positives with a plan that does not support existing work and keeps the colony intact. Resources should be spent on Save-A-Gato, providing cats vaccines to protect the population health of the island, and supporting adoptions.</p>
1472	<p>Inviertan el dinero que van a utilizar para llevar esto a cabo en una fundación(es) que pueda proveerles comida, esterilización y buscarles hogar, paguen para servicios de seguridad para que personas no abandonen gatos allí y multen a quienes lo hagan pero "remover" los animales es simplemente inhumano</p>
1473	<p>Saludos:</p> <p>Gracias por la oportunidad de expresar mi sentir.</p> <p>No considero que sean gatos realengos, El Viejo San Juan es su hogar, su hábitat donde han nacido y vivido. Donde reciben ayuda, veterinaria,, comida, etc. Son considerados un atractivo, tanto para residentes como para turistas amantes de los animales, que de hecho, cada vez son más los que visitan nuestra Isla.</p> <p>No queremos ser reconocidos internacionalmente como la Isla Asesina, más bien sigamos el ejemplo de los países que han aportado al bienestar de sus mascotas.</p> <p>Eliminarlos no debe ser la solución, ya hay organizaciones que trabajan para mantenerlos en control, pongan su esfuerzo en apoyar a estas organizaciones para que continúen con su labor.</p> <p>Seamos la Isla digna de visitar porque su amor por los que no tienen voz, es grande.</p>
1474	<p>As a past visitor to this National Park, I ask that the Park Service work with local animal care groups to mass sterilize these beloved cats. Removing these cats will only allow for more (unsterilized) cats to take their place and multiply, in what is known in nature as the "vacuum effect." Catching and removing (or killing) cats is therefore futile. It is an expensive, deadly cycle which yields no long-term benefits. A fixed cat colony is fairly stable and will not increase on its own.</p>
1475	<p>I just wanted to let you know that the cats are very much a huge part of what makes Paseo del Morro special to me and why the city has become a favorite of mine to visit. The first time I visited Old San Juan it was the first place I went and I was in heaven! I have been back</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>several times since and the walkway around the city wall is always the first place I head to visit the cats, before moving on and paying the parks to enter the monuments and spending money in the shops. I believe that resources concerning the cats would be best spent working with local rescue groups to spay, neuter, and release the cats so that the numbers will be controlled. It seems like Save A Gato has done amazing work so focusing on helping them achieve their goals of caring for the cats is the best and most humane way of dealing with the situation. From what I understand, the cats were brought to the island to control rodents and eliminating the cats is likely to cause worse problems than they cause. Working instead to keep the population controlled with sterilization would likely lead to a much better outcome. You have knowledgeable and experienced people who care working with the cats. Supporting them is the best course of action in my opinion. I am very hopeful you are lead by compassion as I love to visit your beautiful city but would be too heartbroken to return if I knew the cats I have come to know and love have been eliminated unkindly. Thank you for listening.</p>
1476	<p>Do not eliminate the cats that live in Old San Juan. They are part of the history of the city and they also do the important job of keeping rats and other rodents at bay. I worked in VSJ for many years and I've seen how my friends and colleagues now take their families to "visit" the cats. You can find a way to work together with the Save a Sato org to provide more funds to help them with their mission of taking care of the cats.</p>
1477	<p>Esos animalitos no le hacen daño a nadie, son seres que no pidieron ser abandonados, y no se pide nada para mantenerlos, los voluntarios se dedican a eso. No es justo sacarlos de lo único que conocen como hogar. No es justo para ellos, ni para las personas que le dedican tiempo a la labor tan bonita de alimentarlos y esterilizarlos. Déjenlos en su hogar.</p>
1478	<p>While visiting San Juan in 2022. We were delightfully surprised when we came across save the Gatos organization. It's such a beautiful blessing to have such caring people look after these beautiful animals. It was the highlight of our trip. I plan to support a Save IA Gato as much as I can and hope to revisit them soon. Please allow them to continue this wonderful organization as is!</p>
1479	<p>Oposición total a remoción de los gatos, hace años están ahí y ya son una atracción turística, aparte de que la organización. SAVE A SATO los lleva esterilizado desde hace mucho.No le hacen daño a nadie, al contrario es un placer verlos y compartir con ellos</p>
1480	<p>I am writing on behalf of the organization Save A Gato in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. I am opposed to the NPS's proposed plan to rid of the cat colonies on Old San Juan. Save A Gato has been working tirelessly for twenty years ensuring that these cats are properly fed, neutered or spayed, and cared for in the event of medical necessity. The cats of Old San Juan are a vital part of the experience of the city. I spent my honeymoon there in 2018 and have been supporting Save A Gato since. The money that the NPS would spend to rid the city of this cat colony would be much better spent in the hands of Save A Gato to support their mission. If all the cats were gone, Old San Juan would lose a bit of its magic, not to mention it would probably have a significant problem with rodents that the cats currently keep at bay.</p>
1481	<p>Please leave the cat colony in place. Cat colonies have been found to reduce rodent populations that might spread disease. They are very self-sufficient and clean. Thank you.</p>
1482	<p>Sirva este espacio para abogar por la permanencia de los gatos en lo que se conoce como el Paseo del Morro. Desde 1920 los gatos están permitidos en lo que es el Viejo San Juan, estos se hizo con el propósito de controlar la población de roedores en la zona donde los barcos descargaban. Hoy en día la gran cantidad de restaurantes y los desechos que estos generan hace imperante que los gatos continúen su existencia como control natural de roedores. Ellos no tienen que pagar con sus vidas el que haya personas que no les gusten o sientan cierto</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	desprecio por ellos. Les pido encarecidamente que respeten la vida de estas hermosas criaturas. Gracias anticipadas por la atención prestada.
1483	<p>In October of this year, I had the privilege of visiting the fine city of San Juan and particularly Paseo del Morro. What a great treasure for The City of San Juan. We enjoyed walking around the entirety of Paseo Del Morro and really enjoyed the history, the iguanas and especially all of the various cats. While some of the cats were friendly and would let us pet them, most quietly observed us from afar, not bothering anyone. We did not notice any offensive odor, or any aggressiveness as has been complained about by some. We barely even noticed the feeding stations. We had the opportunity to talk to one of the volunteers that day that regularly tends to the cats and she shared about all the great work they do caring for these sweet creatures. It's an organization that I find very worthy of my financial support.</p> <p>Please don't stymie the efforts of Save A Gato and other organizations like them by destroying these cat colonies. Instead, work with them and get a full appreciation of what they do and the challenges that all animal welfare groups face. Working together to find solutions is usually better than taking drastic actions that can be potentially harmful to the animals and that will ultimately undo so much great work. Consider funneling some of this government energy and dollars into creating and supporting community spay-neuter programs to help reduce the problem of animal homelessness. These volunteers put their hearts and souls into what they do, and their passion is immeasurable. So many things in humanity depend on the service of volunteers, please don't kill their spirit.</p> <p>Please leave the historic cat colonies that inhabit the Paseo del Morro alone.</p> <p>Thank you for listening.</p>
1484	Cada vez que visito el VSJ, me encanta caminar por el área o sentarme en un banquito para poder interactuar con los gatitos. Son un gran apoyo emocional para la comunidad. Con lo agitada que es la vida en San Juan, ni sería la misma experiencia son los gatitos. Además el control de plagas gracias a ellos es esencial para la capital, La cantidad de ratas y ratones que he visto en las calles de San Juan anteriormente es inedito. Desde que llegaron los gatos, no se ve ni una. Espero que reconsideren lo importante y queridos que son estas almas para nosotros.
1485	The Save a Gato organization is a wonderful opportunity to help stray animal populations, educate people, create volunteer opportunities, and is an established tourist attraction. There are opportunities to generate additional funding with minimal upfront costs: create a cat cafe where people can get coffee/pastries and play with the cats. Create a small San Juan cat museum with the history of Save a Gato and/or cats in San Juan. It would be a huge disservice to the animals in Puerto Rico and the education of young people on the appropriate treatment and care for animals if you eliminate Save a Gato.
1486	Además de ser una crueldad innecesaria, sería un daño increíble al ecosistema de la ciudad del Viejo San Juan la remoción de estos animales inseparables de la identidad de la misma. Aportan grandemente a la falta de ratas en una región conocida por sus bahías y transportes al mantenerse activos en la caza de ratas.
1487	These cats have been in the old San Juan for years, they are part of our culture. It's a well preserved area and the cats are well maintained. I've been coming to this area since I was a little kid and it's one of my favorites of all OSJ. I recently went there and I can tell the organization behind the rescue and care of these cats are very dedicated to what they're doing. What the island needs is a more thorough education about pet abandonment, since this is the

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>real issue unfortunately. I moved six years ago to Oregon and I've never seen a street dog or cat, unless it was in a homeless camp in which case they're very well taken care of. I'm afraid this whole project is going to end the lives of all these cats, stop the non-profit that helps them, and as uneducated people keep abandoning their cats in this area, you guys will have to keep killing these poor animals again and again. This is outrageous. They're part of our culture and they keep the streets "pest free". I've never heard of anyone complain about them or heard of anyone being attacked by them. Simply outrageous.</p>
1488	<p>Although I appreciate active interest in the improvement of the Paseo and the well-being of its users, there are a few important questions I feel were not addressed by the attached document.</p> <p>For example, a motivating factor to the removal of the local cat population cited in the document is the ecological effects of feral cats on the local fauna. These effects are indeed well-studied and can be severe, but the document provides no evidence that such effects are actually taking place in the Paseo, particularly when such a thing should be discovered quite easily (bird carcasses, etc.).</p> <p>Similarly, another motivating factor cited is the possibility of infection by the cats with diseases such as hookworm, etc., and their transmission to human visitors—but such concerns should be considerably minimized due to the veterinary intervention (including vaccination) that is key to TNR programs like those currently implemented by Save a Gato in the Paseo. In addition, no data is offered on the rate of infection of the cat population in the Paseo with any such disease.</p> <p>It is also considered in the document that the TNR program is "not working" as a result of the local population of cats increasing instead of remaining stable or decreasing—something the document offers no specific data for, but does indicate through the increasing presence of "outside" (non-tagged) cats. If the number of cats from outside populations that enters the community is increasing in a harmful way to the Paseo, then this should be framed as a problem associated with that specific subsection of the cat population—not as a failure of the TNR program, or as a problem with the TNR "inside" population of cats.</p> <p>From a purely social perspective, the document indicates in its own bullet point that the presence of a cat population in the Paseo is detrimental for "groups interested in using it". What exactly does this mean, for what purposes would the park be used, and what groups are the document referring to, given that it already addressed visitor concerns separately and specifically (in which it is claimed some visitors like the cats, and some don't, with no survey information or relevant data attached).</p> <p>Given all of these comments, and as someone who treasured and treasures visiting the cats in the Paseo often, here is my opinion; the cats in the Paseo offer a vital part of the intangible cultural heritage of Old San Juan (similar to places such as Istanbul, which has stronger protections for cats than those currently in place for the Paseo cats), and action consisting of a blanket removal of the cat population, the TNR program and feeding stations without attempting any other milder intervention would prove foolish and counterproductive, potentially causing an enormous socioecological change to the immediate and surrounding Old San Juan area (since neighborhood cats from Old San Juan are likely to be exterminated in the process due to population co-mingling). I hope that those who read this and have a serious interest in the well-being of the park, its visitors, and its feline inhabitants—</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	independent of outside "groups interested in using it"—are brave enough to consider milder action to this situation instead of causing irreversible damage to a cherished part of Old San Juan.
1489	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>The community of cats that inhabits the Paseo del Morro is not a group of stray animals, on the contrary, they are cats cared for and fed by the Save a Gato organization, an entity that without available financial resources does everything possible to help and care for these creatures.</p> <p>Why the National Parks Service wants to eradicate them is a question that a large group of people interested in the welfare of animals and the environment asks ourselves.</p> <p>The viable option for the overpopulation of homeless animals in PR is sterilization, education, and compassionate awareness towards animals and their abandonment. Instead of using the inhumane measure of eradication, you could join in creating a curriculum within your parks that includes education and joint work with organizations that look after the welfare of animals and nature. The National Park Service should allow Save a Gato to continue its commendable work of caring for, feeding, and sterilizing the colony of cats that have lived there for many years.</p> <p>Your entity could win the sympathy of visitors and local neighbors if they adopt the aforementioned, please be allies for the benefit of animals, do not be cruel and insensitive.</p>
1490	<p>Dear National Park Service, please do not move or remove the cats at Paseo del Morro in San Juan, PR. They are a national treasure, just like the fort itself. As a frequent traveler to San Juan, the cats are a big draw for us. We love walking on the Paseo and visiting with the cats. Each time we are there we get to see how they are doing, recognize some that we have seen before and enjoy them in this habitat. We talk with the neighbors who feed and take care of the cats, we feel their love for those cats in the same way we feel for our pet cats. They are a part of the experience, just like seeing crabs and lizards are on the Paseo. We love walking through the neighborhood, the "cat streets" and looking for cats lounging in flower pots and doorways. We love and support the work that Save a Gato does to keep all the cats fed, fixed and healthy. We have visited El Morro, the fort many times, and never see the business of the historical site worse for the presence of the cats.</p> <p>Please do not remove them. San Juan is such a vibrant, lovely community. The cats are a part of the tapestry of the city, in the same way that La Perla, the piraguas, the pigeons, and indeed, the 500 year old fort, city walls, and cobblestone streets are.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
1491	<p>Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas.</p>
1492	<p>Old San Juan is one of my families favorite places to visit as residents of Puerto Rico. We have been visiting for many years at leasr monthly. It typically includes a walk through the old city. This is how we became acquainted with Save a Gato and the outstanding work they do with their TNR cat program. We have adopted 3 cats over the years from them. I must say that they run a nice operation with dedicated volunteers. In addition, it is clear that most</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	visitors enjoy these amazing animals and appreciate that they are well taken care of. I urge the National Parks Service to be supportive of this organization and the colony of cats in Old San Juan. Best regards.
1493	<p>Please cease your plan to remove the cats from Old San Juan!!!!</p> <p>Those cats are well taken care of and are part of the Old San Juan scenery. They do not disturb anyone and their presence helps contain pests around the streets of Old San Juan. If you remove them and the good people who take care of them, you'll be creating true problem. More cats will come around and with no one to feed and care for them, the city will then have a real issue.</p> <p>Please STOP! Often, people who love cats visit Old San Juan and enjoy watching them laying around. People who don't care for cats probably don't even notice them because cats are not invasive creatures. They don't jump on or approach people.</p> <p>So again, please, STOP! Let us embrace them as they do in other cultures around the world where they acknowledge the benefits of cat colonies and have learned to co exist with them.</p>
1494	The Save a Gato Project is a beautiful one. We the people of PR that love animals , specially cats needs help , support, sponsors and anything that maintain the health and the safe of them. The cats are part of old San Juan .
1495	Cats are a part of the San Juan culture, they've been there my entire life, and my parents and their parents. It'd be a shame, a tragedy, a cultural attack to cull them in such way.
1496	WHY INSTEAD OF REMOVING THOSE CATS THAT ARE PROTECTED BY THE SAVEAGATO ORGANIZATION, THEY BETTER SUPPORT THEM WITH STERILIZATIONS BY DOING TNR (TRAP, NEUTER, RELEASE), VACCINATION CLINICS THAT PR NEEDS SO MUCH. PR HAS MORE IMPORTANT THINGS THAN WANTING TO TAKE OUT THE CATS THAT TOURISTS AND VISITORS LOVE. THEY DO NOT BOTHER. LEAVE THEM ALONE..
1497	I lived in Puerto Rico many years. Walking through Old San Juan was one of my favorite things to do. I often visited El Paseo del Morro because of its beautiful surroundings, including the cats that inhabited the area. These cats were never dangerous and some were quite loving and affectionate. I never saw anyone complaining about them, in fact, I believe they are a tourist attraction. They have become a part of Old San Juan, therefore, they should not be removed. I truly believe these cats are a part of the experience of El Paseo.
1498	Do not euthanize the cats
1499	I was born and raised in Puerto Rico and I always remember how nice it was to visit Old San Juan and see all the sweet cats lounging around the streets. This plan to eliminate the stray colony seems not well thought of and cruel since there is not a thorough claim as to what will happen to the cats that are removed from the area. Will they go to a sanctuary or shelter? Doubtful since there are not enough systems provided by the state to home these cats. Having them all be adopted also seems like a stretch since some are feral cats. Since there is no mention as to how these cats will be processed one can assume that they will be euthanized. What a sad solution to something that has never really been a problem to the local people that live in the area. What measures will be taken when the cats are gone to handle rats and cockroaches? These can be considered actual pests that bring disease and will make the area unsightly for locals and visitors, looking and feeling dirty. The cats act as natural predators

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>for these pests. Please reconsider injecting funds into programs that can safely trap, spay/neuter, vaccinate, and keep these cats safe before releasing them back in into the area instead of offering to kill innocent animals. If the cats are safe and healthy they will never be violent or cause issues to the community and will keep bringing joy to those who live in, and visit the area.</p>
1500	Please do not remove the cats from Old San Juan
1501	Please keep the status quo with respect to the cats. We, as everyone we know here, love these cats and feel they are very special to our community.
1502	The cats of San Juan are part of the charm of the city!! They are well taken care of by local nonprofits. They do not pose a threat or harm to the populace. Please, let them be. With neutering and releasing, the cat population will dwindle with time. Instead take measures to educate the people about the responsibility of pet ownership and the repercussions of abandoning their animals.
1503	Please continue as is... NO ACTION...save a gato should keep looking after the cats.
1504	<p>This comment is in regards of the of the renewal of cats project in Old San Juan Puerto Rico:</p> <p>I would like to express why the locals residents cats of Old San Juan are important and necessary for the benefit of El paseo de la Princesa and El Morro. This local residents are and always will be a important part of the historic Old San Juan not only ecological but therapeutic of any visiting or resident folks that visit El paseo and el Fortin. This cats in discussions are essential for controlling populations like rats and iguanas. Nevertheless are the reason why many tourists and locals like myself visit this National monuments to spend time with this friendly animals as to relax and decompress. You see they are family they are therapy for people like myself that like to enjoy this monuments just because of the cats. I would like to include the generous job, dedication and hard work of the non-profit organization of Save a Gato that's takes care of the residents cats. Save a Gato feeds, nurture, vaccinates, cures, finds them home to many of these cats like my cat Nayi. She was a Save a Gato cat of Old San Juan, that in my time working in a local boutique she visit me everyday at work. Until one day Save a Gato help me rescue her form the streets. Nayi lived with me 8 of the most happiest years of my life and Save a Gato help me found the love of my life. And let me tell you she (Nayi) rescue me instead and for that I would be forever grateful with Save a Gato. You understand this animals are NOT a hazard, a danger nor a threat for this monuments. Are the complete opposite. They are the heart and soul of Old San Juan, El Morro and Paseo de la Princesa.</p>
1505	Hello, I am commenting today in favor of keeping the cats at the El Morro National Park. I am a resident of New York City and my family are from the island of Puerto Rico. We visit multiple times through out the year we visit El Morro every time. We enjoy the restaurants nearby like, El Mallorca and take a slow walk to Morro to sit with the cats. Everyone we meet from around the world quickly become enamored with the famous strays of El Morro. I feel attempting to remove the cats will ultimately hurt surrounding businesses, allow rodents to multiply and will not sit well with the local residents of Old San Juan. Helping reducing the population of the colonies through trap and neutering is a positive and humane option, but completely removing their habitats and not feeding the cats will lead to other issues. Save the cats of Old San Juan, Puerto Rico they are part of the community, the history and culture of all Puerto Ricans, living on the island and around the world. Thank You.
1506	I am against the removal of the cats of San Juan. As an employee in San Juan, I witness the beauty of the cats on the daily basis. They are well taken care of by the save a gato community and do not cause any harm or danger to those living or visiting the city. If

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>anything, the organization 'save a gato', could use the financial assistance for government agencies to continue their awesome work in maintaining happy cats and ultimately a happy community.</p>
1507	<p>I don't believe that removing the cats from Old San Juan and El Morro that are being taken care of by the people of Save a Gato is a solution. Those cats are being neutered, vaccinated and taken care of any illness by a non profit organization that resurfaced because of irresponsible people who abandon the cats on that area. The over population is not because the animals are reproducing there, it is because people keep dumping their unwanted pets on that area. What you should do instead is help this non profit organization find fosters, and permanent homes by aiding in mass adoptions activities, funding and reinforcing that if anyone is caught abandoning a pet on the premises of Old San Juan or El Morro will be fined and be held accountable by the law. And just remember, if the cats go, the rats will come. Which is worst? You decide.</p> <p>I believe that whoever abandons or mistreats an animal is capable of far more worst to a human being. This is also a great way to educate people about kindness starting with this furry animals.</p> <p>Please don't take them from there.</p>
1508	<p>I am writing to express my dismay that the NPS is considering forcible removal of the cats of Paseo del Moro. On my recent trip to San Juan seeing and interacting with these friendly and beautiful creatures was one of the highlights of my experience. The Save a Gato organization has worked tirelessly for years to provide a humane and safe way of managing the cat population. As noted in your announcement, despite these efforts, the cat population has increased. What is conspicuously left unsaid is that without their work the cat population would likely have ballooned orders of magnitude higher. Rather than see this as an indication that further material support for the Save a Gato is needed, the NPS has decided to propose the inhumane solution of removing the cats that.</p> <p>These are innocent creatures who, through no choice of their own, were brought to this area by humans generations ago. Now that they have become a minor inconvenience to some, a new generation humans feel it is their right to do what they want to them. It is just one of countless many examples of humans infinite ability to disregard the natural world and the many creatures we share it with no matter how inhumane and cruel it may be.</p> <p>It is particularly shocking and horrifying that this action is being taken by the NPS. In a time when our National Parks are overflowing with visitors and our precious natural resources are being dwindled away daily by the effects of climate change and privatization of our nation's abundance of natural beauty, does the really NPS feel that this is a priority for a majority of the populace? To answer my on my own behalf, it is not! Do not proceed with this proposal, HELP Save a Gato and protect these beautiful cats!</p>
1509	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>I, among many other Puerto Ricans citizens, am absolutely appalled by the pending proposal to [possibly] exterminate our meandering cat population in Old San Juan, even more so after witnessing neighborhood & Save a gato's constant efforts to care & look after them. They are a part of the fabric of our old town & are moreover rodent killers.</p> <p>I cannot help but think about the dangers of gentrification and exterior prejudices influencing in these matters; I wholeheartedly implore this petition be thoughtfully reexamined and</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>redirected towards so many other issues that plague the island and the [few] local, non-privatized parks we have left.</p> <p>While we might have to envision other ways of accommodating and feeding the cat population per the documentation presented on here, I wholeheartedly believe extermination is out of the question. Save a gato's jurisprudence on this matter should be of utmost consideration.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
1510	Los gatos se respetan soy cat lovers y no hacen daño a la multitud y los turistas juegan con ellos
1511	It is appalling that you are considering removing the cat population from the grounds of the Old San Juan Historic site. Made even worse when you have committed organizations like Save a Gato to help foster and rehouse the cats in question. The Old San Juan community strongly denounces this action.
1512	It is inconceivable that a plan to kill these loving cats that are in our capital city can be even considered. These cats deserve an opportunity so that a better plan can be developed for the benefit of all parties involved. Killing them should NOT be the solution! Why not create or develop a park that can act as a tourist location so the people can go and visit them just like parque de las palomas. In Perú they have the Kennedy park in Lima! They have people caring for them and tourists visit the park so that they can pet and take pictures of the cats living inside! People can open stands and employment opportunities can also be created! In Japan there is even a whole island dedicated for these cats and it attracts tourists! Save a Gato has done a marvelous job keeping the population at bay and these efforts can not be in vain! Please do not murder these cats! They are living sentient beings. Do not take the easy way out and do better!!!!
1513	Estoy en contra de la eutanasia de los gatos de San Juan ellos no son agresivos solo saludan a los turistas y juegan con ellos no es justo que los maten por unos pocos que los odian
1514	<p>I write in support of the "No Action" alternative proposed by the Park Service and in opposition to the proposed action for "management" of free-ranging cats in Old San Juan National Historical Site. The cats are not an "invasive species" within the meaning of Executive Order 13751. The free-ranging cats offer a series of benefits to the National Historical Site. Furthermore, even assuming there was a benefit to removing the existing cats, the proposed elimination of the current cat colony would not result in the long-term elimination of cats from the historical site. Accordingly, the Park Service should continue to work with Save a Gato and other organizations to feed, spay or neuter, and otherwise care for the cats.</p> <p>While I am a resident of Maryland, I regularly visit Old San Juan and the Historical Site as a tourist. To me, the cats are an attraction and an important reason I regularly visit the Historical Site.</p> <p>In explaining the need for the "management" plan, the Park Service states, "This plan is needed to bring the park into compliance with existing authorities for invasive species." The cats, however, are not "invasive species." Executive Order 13751 defines "invasive species" as "A non-native species that</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>causes harm to the environment, economy, or human, animal, or plant health." The cats do not fall within that definition because the harms identified by the Park Service that the cats allegedly have not been shown to exist and/or would not be remedied by removing the existing colony from the Historical Site.</p> <p>The Park Service identifies the following possible harms from the presence of cats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encounters between visitors and cats and the smell of urine and feces are also inconsistent with the cultural landscape. Cat urine and feces are concentrated around the feeding stations. • Free-ranging cats can carry a number of diseases that can be transmitted to humans and wildlife, such as toxoplasmosis, rabies, bartonellosis, plague, and flea-borne typhus. Cats can become infected with parasites, such as roundworm and hookworm, that can be passed to humans through accidental ingestion of contaminated soil or feces. • Visitors that approach free-ranging cats at the park could also be bitten or scratched. • Cats have an enormous impact on wildlife worldwide, especially birds, contributing to species extinctions. They are indiscriminate in what they kill, and they are often surplus killers, not always eating what they kill. • Feeding stations located within the park attract rats. Cat surveys at feeding stations have shown rats feeding alongside cats. <p>I will address each of these factors in turn.</p> <p>I strongly disagree with the claim that encounters with the cats are "inconsistent with the cultural landscape." To me, and many other people I know, the cats are an integral part of the experience at the Historical Site. I enjoy seeing them, and they blend in with the environment. The Historical Site is located in the middle of a large city where cats are usually present. Furthermore, during the times I have been near the feeding stations on the Historical Site, I have not noticed a strong smell of cat urine or feces.</p> <p>While all cats (not just free-ranging cats) can carry various diseases, the Park Service does not cite a single case where a disease was transmitted from cats to humans at the Historical Site. Absent such evidence, this alleged harm should not be recognized. Furthermore, the current managed colony has access to vaccinations and medical care.</p> <p>In my visits to the Historical Site, there are cats who seek out humans, as well as cats who avoid humans. Cats who seek out humans are usually friendly and will not bite or scratch unless they are mistreated by humans. Cats who do not wish to interact with humans can easily be avoided. With a modicum of common sense, cat scratches and bites can be avoided.</p> <p>The impact of free-ranging cats on other wildlife populations (especially birds) can be a controversial and emotional subject. Here, the Park Service makes no attempt to study or quantify the impact of this specific managed cat colony on bird populations. It also does not identify any threatened or at-risk species that have been harmed by cats. Furthermore, since the current cat colony has ready access to food, the cats have less incentive to go after birds and other animals. Accordingly, this factor should not be controlling.</p> <p>Finally, contrary to the suggestion that cat feeding stations attract rats, cats act as a deterrent to rats. While some people feel that cats (feral or domestic) attract rodents because of uneaten cat food, the opposite is true. Rodents prefer to stay clear of cats and other predators.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Scientists in the United States discovered that, when mice detect specific proteins found in cat saliva, they react with fear. See https://www.vftafoundation.org/cat_rat_facts. These proteins, called Mups, act on cells in a special sensory organ in the mouse, called the vomeronasal organ. An article in the journal Cell describes how the proteins trigger a fearful reaction in the mice. See The Chemical MUPeteer, Cell Magazine, Volume 141, Issue 4, pp. 568-570 (May 14, 2010).</p> <p>The Park Service web site states, &quot;The removal agency would use best professional judgment to manage the humane capture and removal of the cats.&quot; Unfortunately, it is virtually certain that the cats would be killed once they were trapped and removed from the Paseo. There is no organization in Puerto Rico that has the capability for humanely dealing with this large a number of cats who have been removed from their native environment. While owned, indoor cats certainly have a better quality of life than free-ranging cats, the Park Service does not propose a viable means for taking care of the cats once they are removed from the Paseo. The alternatives are allowing the cats to maintain their existing life, or killing them.</p> <p>The proposed cat management plan is unlikely to keep cats out of the Paseo in the long term. If the existing colony is removed, new cats will take their place. As the Park Service recognizes, abandoned cats are often dumped in the area. Those cats are often not spayed or neutered. If the managed colony is removed, abandoned cats will be free to reproduce. An unmanaged colony is more likely to cause the harms identified by the Park Service. Furthermore, the Park Service would have to address those harms without the benefit of Save a Gato's help and experience. That would require constant use of the Park Service's scarce resources.</p> <p>In summary, the proposed management plan would not solve any harms that have been shown to exist at the Paseo and would result in the killing of cats who have peacefully existed at the Historical Site for years. Furthermore, killing the current cat colony would likely only result in more unneutered cats being introduced to the Paseo. The Park Service should not adopt the proposed management plan and should adopt the &quot;No action&quot; alternative.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
1515	No estoy de acuerdo la matanza de Los Gatos Los turista juegan con ellos y les traen comida
1516	Favor de dejar Los Gatos en San Juan. Mi comentario es que son importantes en la minimizar las sabandijas
1517	<p>Mi opinión es que NO deben remover los gatitos del San Juan, al contrario deberían darle más apoyo a Save a Gato en su gestion de esterilizar (TNR) la colonia existente. Los gatos ayudan en el control de PLAGAS. Las ratas se apoderarán del Viejo San Juan. Lo que están demostrando es que prefieren tener ratas y sabandijas a tener gatitos en el Viejo San Juan.!!!!</p> <p>En el Viejo SJ SIEMPRE ha habido gatos y no perjudican para nada al turismo, al contrario a los turistas les gustan y el mensaje que se estaría llevando es que somos un país que NO tiene empatia hacia el bienestar de los animales.</p> <p>Si remueven esos gatos, los van a llevar a un refugio que eventualmente los eutanzarán. Los van a sacary ya verán que siempre van a haber gatos porque la misma gente los va a traer.</p> <p>Hay que dejar la hipocresía actuar con responsabilidad, mantener esterilizada la colonia de SJ</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>y tener vigilancia para denunciar a las personas que vienen de otros lugares a tirarlos y abandonarlos allí. Entiendo que hacia eso es que se deben dirigir los esfuerzos y no ha sacarlos y sacrificarlos.</p>
1518	<p>No estoy de acuerdo las matanzas de Los Gatos Los turista juegan con ellos y les traen comida</p>
1519	<p>I, among many other Puerto Ricans citizens, am absolutely appalled by the pending proposal to (possibly) exterminate our meandering cat population in Old San Juan, even more so after witnessing neighborhood & Save a gato's constant efforts to care & look after them. They are a part of the fabric of our old town & are moreover rodent killers. I cannot help but think about the dangers of gentrification and exterior prejudices influencing these matters; I wholeheartedly implore this petition be thoughtfully reexamined and redirected towards so many other issues that plaque the island and the (few) local, non-privatized parks we have left. While we might have to envision other ways of accommodating and feeding the cat population per the documentation presented on here, I wholeheartedly believe extermination is out of the question. Save a gato's jurisprudence on this matter should be of utmost consideration.</p>
1520	<p>A people can be judged by how they treat their animals. These cats did not ask to leave on the streets. A responsive and responsible non-profit, Save a Gato, is willing to intervene and address the situation humanely. Give them the support to do that and do not play super human by deciding the fate of another being.</p>
1521	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>I'm writing on behalf of the cats of Old San Juan. Growing up, the best part of visiting the streets of Old San Juan was seeing all the beautiful and friendly resident cats of this historic city. When I heard about the plan to euthanize them, my heart immediately sank, thinking that this significant part of our culture would disappear.</p> <p>These cats aren't a threat to properties or people because local organizations have been providing TNR services and care to these cats and the city. It seems unnecessary to erase something so magical about Old San Juan for the sole reason of appealing to tourists (they also enjoy seeing the cats).</p> <p>I truly hope you reconsider this measure.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
1522	<p>I'm opposed to the plan due to many facts. First fact is that there's a tourist attraction in Viejo San Juan where people and tourists constantly feed sickly pigeons as an entertainment. The pigeons have a lot more diseases that are easier too spread compared to the cats, and they also have more contact with people who walk by. But there's no plan whatsoever designed for the management of the pests like pigeons.</p> <p>Second fact is countries like Portugal promote the care of stray cats, even to the point of treating them like civilians. These cats help control pests around the cities. And I'd rather see stray cats around Viejo San Juan instead of rats and cockroaches honestly.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Third fact is that killing all the cats won't solve the problem. People are going to keep abandoning animals and they'll end up in the streets creating a vicious cycle, and the ones being harmed are the poor cats.
1523	Apoyo la permanencia de Los Gatos del Viejo San Juan pues no hacen daño a nadie, por el contrario, contribuyen a alejar a los ratones y entretienen a los visitantes. Save a gato ha realizado una extraordinaria labor por muchos años para mantener la colonia en control. Cuando visito San Juan disfruto con Los Gatos los cuales ya son parte del paisaje. Sin embargo, me parece que una alternativa sería crear un espacio cerrado para ellos a modo de un Santuario, si es que deciden que no los quieren sueltos. Lo importante es que permanezcan en San Juan.
1524	Who is really behind this and why? All over the world, cats are allowed to roam free with TNR processes in place. Especially with an organization that feeds them daily. Your proposal is 100% inhumane. Not to mention futile. If you were able to kill those cats, OSJ would soon be overrun by rodents, and subsequently new stray cats would fill the void. It's nature's way. Please stop this inane proposal.
1525	Please leave the cats alone. They've always been there and never bothered anyone, San Juan is home of the cats. Save a Gato is taking care of the cats there and we will continue to support them.
1526	La remocion de los gatitos del Viejo San Juan es inaceptable, ya el area tiene designado un establecimiento para el cuidado de los gatos el cual se beneficiaria más de la ayuda del gobierno y no ignorar el problema o hacerlo peor, va mucho más allá de la imagen cultural.
1527	My wife and I honeymooned in San Juan PR. It was an absolute delight to see the lovely cats that call the city home. Every day we'd walk around petting them and enjoying their company. The volunteers at saveagato do so much to take care of the cats and it shows as they are a wonderful colony. They help keep the vermin out of the town and add a special character to the city that makes it unlike any other place in the world and the cats are a big part of the reason that i want to come back and eventually live in San Juan.
1528	Saludos! Espero que se encuentren bien. Me quiero expresar en contra de que remuevan los gatos del Viejo San Juan o hagan una matanza indiscriminada contra unos seres vivos indefensos que no se pueden defender. Esos animales no están allí por gusto sino por personas irresponsables e inescrupulosas que los abandonaron en las calles a sufrir. Gracias a la organización Save a Gato y a sus voluntarios se a podido esterilizar y vacunar a la gran mayoría de esos gatos para evitar la sobre población. Si en otros países con parques milenarios han aprendido las comunidades y turistas a convivir con las colonias de gatos, porque Puerto Rico tiene que ser el único país o isla que no puede hacerlo. Hacen años que deberían de averse dado cuenta que matar a los animales no es la solución, por qué el problema no son los animales sino la mala cultura y educación que tienen los puertorriqueños de tratar a los animales como basura. Por un animal que ustedes maten los abusadores van a botar 5 y cuidado si más. Hay que ser más concientes, juicios y creativos al tratar con seres vivos, no a todo se le puede poner una etiqueta de plaga y acusarlos de que perjudican la salud de las personas y resolverlo matando. Cuando las mismas personas crean vertederos clandestinos dañando y contaminando flora, fauna y cuerpos de agua, ahí ellos no ven ningún daño que comprometa a su salud. El mismo gobierno estaría violando las Leyes contra el maltrato hacia los animales, las personas van a pensar si el gobierno los puede matar porque yo no? le darán luz verde a todos esos maltratantes para que continúen abusando de todos esos pobres animales indefensos que no tienen voz. Si ya existe una organización

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>trabajado la situación y ayudando a los animales como a la comunidad, porque el gobierno no se puede unir a la organización y cooperar con las esterilizaciones, vacunas y alimentos? por qué si aparecen fondos para hacer una matanza tienen que aparecer fondos para poder ayudar a esos gatos y a la organización y hacer halgo positivo en este país 🙏❤️.</p>
1529	<p>The managed cat colony on the Paseo del Morro is my favorite thing about Old San Juan. Please don't ruin this by trying to get rid of them. The correct answer is to continue TNR. Whatever money is being considered for any alternative should instead be spent on spaying and neutering the cats.</p>
1530	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>I have always been a cat lover, and one of the highlights of my visit to Old San Juan years ago was the joy that I felt when I discovered that it was home to quite a lot of cats. I remember being delighted to see them lounging contently on top of parked cars on the street, sleeping in the plaza and casually strolling through the neighborhoods. I remember thinking how lovely it was to see this place where cats were living in harmony with the humans. When I returned home and found "Save the Gatos" was the organization that was caring for and sterilizing these lovely animals, I started sending them a monthly donation to support their mission. They really have been doing a terrific job keeping these cats healthy and keeping the population down for so many years and I would like to continue to offer my support in helping them in their mission because I know it's the right thing to do. These cats have become part of Old San Juan's history and should continue to be protected and cared for. I look forward to visiting these cats again on my future visits to Puerto Rico!</p>
1531	<p>Writing to voice strong opposition to plans to remove the cats of San Juan, Puerto Rico. The cats are a beloved part of the city and part of the cultural heritage of the place and must be left where they are.</p>
1532	<p>El paseo de los gatos del viejo San Juan , es ya parte del turismo (Los gatos de san juan), es muy lamentable que parques nacionales quiera removerlos de donde ha sido su hogar durante años. Ellos no tienen culpa de estar sin hogar por lo menos tienen una organización como la de save a gato que se encarga de ellos la mayoría son gatos esterilizados y vacunados aunque no tengan hogar se encargan de las necesidades de los gatos. No me gustaría que los remuevan pues ya se sabe a donde pararan gatos eutanzados, por que los humanos se creen dueños del mundo y solo ellos pueden vivir en el, los animales tienen derecho y no le hacen mal a nadie aportan controlando las sabandijas. No le hagamos daño a estos gatos sacandolos de donde ha sido su hogar durante tantos años. Que se diga de PR que es una sociedad que ama a los animales no lo contrario</p> <p>Espero. Y confio en Dios que ese proyecto no tenga ningun futuro y se pueda resolver a favor de los gatos.</p>
1533	<p>As a Spanish teacher living in the US, I strongly oppose the removal of culturally relevant aspects of old San Juan when other avenues are available. The cats of old San Juan have just as much a right to the city as any other animal living there. Cats can be neutered to control the population rather than simply removed. It is also a slippery slope to begin removing animals that have historically existed in this city for centuries to appease newcomers—that is gentrification and eradication of an existing cultural experience so that new residents don't have to learn, grow, or adapt.</p> <p>Many of my students learn about the San Juan cats in class, and often talk about how fun it would be to go see them. Please do not remove them—allow the cats to remain in their home, by using one of the other avenues for population control.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1534	Save the Gato needs to stay. It was the best part of visiting PR. It is a beautiful organization that is doing a great service to the community and these beautiful cats. Give them longer than 1 year to get this going. We love save a Gato and the cats of San Juan is the reason I would go back.
1535	<p>Please withhold my identifying information.</p> <p>I wanted to express my support for the removal of feral cats from the park. The TNR team had almost 20 years to show the efficacy of TNR. It has failed to control the cat population so other methods must be used to remove this invasive species from the park. I beg the park service to do what is ecologically right and remove this invasive species.</p>
1536	The El Morro kitties provide joy to so many. This is a tourist destination for you. I have seen El Morro once— I'm good. But do you know why I come back every time we are in Puerto Rico, and spend lots of money in Old San Juan? So I can walk on the paseo and see all the kitties and take photos. Name one instance of plague caused by one of those cats? They are harming no one and have a great organization in Save A Gato taking care of their health and food needs. The startling and sudden desire for NPS has me questioning how this become such a flashpoint issue — I'm concerned about the integrity of NPS considering these animals as invasive species. This was their home long before any of us. Please reconsider your plan to eliminate the cats from that area. If that occurs, many longtime tourists with ties to those cats will be devastated. And it could end up affecting NPS economically. Thank you for considering these comments. And please — let the kitties be.
1537	Esos gatos que quieren sacar del San Juan no tiene culpa de nada son animales inofensivos que no hacen nada de daño y es muy triste si hacen algo contra ellos que no tienen la manera de defenderse no hagan eso por favor
1538	<p>Estimados Park planning.nos.gov,</p> <p>Felices fiestas. Escribo para solidarizarme con la situación recurrente de la población de Gatos del Viejo San Juan.</p> <p>Espero que la decisión de ustedes Unidos a los grupos expresando su apoyo y sentir con la población de la vida inocente de estos felinos, los que procuran buscar soluciones para una situación que viene ocurriendo en Puerto Rico por muchos años. Los Gatos no hacen daño a nadie.</p> <p>Si los esterilizamos reducimos la cantidad de la población de realengos.</p> <p>Su apoyo económico será importante para lograr detener en parte una población y situación que muchos critican y pocos aportan. Los animales son parte de la naturaleza. Viven en cualquier lugar y somos los humanos los que tenemos que transformar la mentalidad de odio actual.</p> <p>Las enfermedades son humanas también. Hay grupos y veterinarios disponibles para elegir decisiones para resolver esta situación.</p> <p>Le expresé: "I voice my concern and support a solution for not removing the cats from Old San Juan, yet providing realistic solutions and economic support from our Mayor & Government agencies to provide economic support to the groups offering a realistic plan to sterilize and take care of the feline population at Old San Juan". Please do not remove the cats and kill them. Let's be together in the solution; we are rational and intelligent citizens voicing</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>a concern for a difficult and "never ending situation" in Puerto Rico and the world; some compassion please, that's what our world need. We have enough internal wars, Planet issues, world wars and conflicts to add another one. Let's talk and stay together for solutions for our Old San Juan feline population and issue.</p> <p>Thank you very much,</p>
1539	<p>DON'T DO IT. These kittens are being sterilized already by non-profit organizations, locals feed them, and I've known to be asked about the cats from Viejo San Juan. It's a cute and healthy attraction for turism. They deserve their place in town and definitely don't deserve to be killed. It's inhuman the acts y'all planning to commit on these poor beings. All I'm saying is non of us locals want this, nor need these cute cats to be gone. They bring NO HARM, and possibly bring more turists.</p>
1540	<p>I have visited this beautiful walk just to see the cat inhabitants. They are well cared for and an asset to the park. Please allow Save A Gato to continue their work to fix all the cats and let the cats continue their lives at this location.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
1541	<p>SAVE THE CATS!!!</p>
1542	<p>My wife and I visited Puerto Rico the first time in February, 2022. We fell in love with San Juan at first sight.</p> <p>We saw cats everywhere, lazily enjoying the sunshine, contently walking around. It reminded us to Istanbul, the city of cats. Later we started to notice the "Save a Gato" signs, the volunteers feeding the cats, found the Facebook page of the organization. We loved the idea, helping animals, sharing the living space with them. We learned that the cats are helped responsibly, that they are first neutered before releasing them back to the city.</p> <p>I think shutting down this wonderful initiative would be a grave mistake. Having cats around gives a certain charm to San Juan. I felt kinship with Puerto Ricans knowing that they are selfless and caring people due to this organization.</p> <p>Please, reconsider shutting Save a Gato down.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
1543	<p>Please leave the cats alone. I walk in old SJ every weekend and I can confirm they are clean , safe , non aggressive cats. They are lovely and when the cat numbers decrease disease carrying rodents are going to be a big health concern. I can't find a single reason to get rid of the cats .</p>
1544	<p>Please leave the El Morro cats alone. They are a part of the culture of old San Juan and the forts. We make a point of looking for them and enjoy seeing them/interacting with them. They are a part of Old San Juan's history for over 500 years. It is part of the uniqueness of Old San Juan, that a city cherishes and integrates the street cats into their daily lives. They have done nothing wrong to deserve ousting from their homes or worse, euthanizing them. Work with Save A Gato, and any other services, to help keep them healthy and allow them their freedom. Complaining they're killing other animals and disturbing the ecosystem because of their kill rates etc is nonsense. They were brought here, and are still used today, to kill vermin naturally aka without pesticides. I foresee more complaints and worries about rats and mice overrunning the city/forts if you remove the cats. They don't kill any more than we,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>as people, do with deforestation and destroying habitats/mating areas for other animals. No one is threatening our right to live as we want. I believe the cats hold a greater value than simply the cost for their upkeep and should be allowed to retain their livelihood in their home.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
1545	<p>Please employ TNR to help these cats instead of other, cruel and inhumane alternatives. TNR is shown to be effective to reduce overpopulation and improve the health of these animals. They are a pleasure to have at this park and we all want what's best for them. Please TNR!!!</p>
1546	<p>Leave the cats alone, please</p>
1547	<p>Saludos a todos. Por varios meses trabajé duro realizando mi tesis enfocada en colonias felinas (domésticos) hacia la salud pública y cuidado apto de los gatos. Trabajamos en el manejo de las colonias y nuestro estudio concluyó en que si las colonias se manejan no tienen porque ser un riesgo a la salud pública. Con solo desparasitar se pueden lograr grandes cosas y hay muchísimas maneras de realizarlo fácil y sencillo y a bajo costo. Adicionalmente, las colonias felinas poseen beneficios. Las mismas crean actividades comunitarias que pueden servir de educación, enseñanza y socialización al público (tanto el que trabaja como el que no trabaja en las colonias felinas). Las colonias felinas tampoco tienen que ser malas para la fauna silvestres, con estar controladas (es decir, que se les ofrezca alimento fresco y agua y otros recursos) optarán por ese alimento principalmente. Por último, el tomar este tipo de decisiones de remover la colonia tiene efectos negativos sobre la percepción y opinión pública. En la gran mayoría y por lo que he visto en comentarios y opiniones, el público quiere que se mantengan a estos gatos donde están. Ese lugar es su entorno, siendo felinos sanos ahí es donde se encuentran bien y mas si se les cuida y maneja. Ese es su hogar y no tiene porque sufrir consecuencias de los seres humanos quienes en primer lugar son los principales contribuidores a la formación de estas colonias tras abandonos. El que se remueva estos gatos no implica que jamás se formará otra colonia. Se ha demostrado en muchos estudios que eutanasiar animales callejeros no es solo una forma costosa si no que también NO controla las colonias tan bien como los otros manejos de TNR, desparasitación y alimentación supervisada (entre otras cosas). La solución por tanto es controlar y manejar la colonia que ya esta presente y educar al público. Pido por favor se reconsidere el manejo de estos gatos y evitar que sufran consecuencias. Estoy dispuesta a contribuir como pueda en un plan para manejar apropiadamente la colonia. Gracias por su tiempo.</p>
1548	<p>Los gatos del paseo del Morro en Viejo San Juan son y han sido los residentes del lugar por muchísimos años. El trabajo de control hecho por la organización Save A Gato, ha sido uno de gran envergadura, ayudando a estos animales a tener una vida tranquila en libertad, además de educar a la comunidad. Lamentablemente la isla cuenta con muy poca educación en cuanto a protección animal, así como esterilización de mascotas. A esto se suma que los costos veterinarios son muy poco accesibles a la ciudadanía, aportando al abandono de más animales en la calle.</p> <p>El problema no son los gatos del paseo, atracción tan bonita con la que cuenta el lugar, ni muchísimo menos las organizaciones que intentan crear mejores espacios por medio de la educación que supone deba ser impartida por el mismo estado, sino las personas sin escrúpulos que abandonan a sus mascotas a su suerte y/o no las esterilizan. Especialmente los que llegan a este lugar para abandonarlos. Retirar a los gatos del paseo del Morro hará que se desate un mar de plagas que serán mucho más perjudicial que las incomodidades con los gatos que puedan tener algunos visitantes del lugar. La isla ha pasado por un sinnúmero de</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>situaciones penosas y tristes y lo menos que necesita en estos momentos, es un acto tan cruel como el que se está intentando hacer. Si esta acción llegara a tomarse, los logros obtenidos por organizaciones de protección animal se verán afectados aportando a más abandono y crueldad animal. El Paseo del Morro, con todos sus gatos bien cuidados y alimentados es sin duda un ejemplo vivo y fiel de espacios dedicados a la empatía y el respeto. Contrario a eliminar los gatos de dicho espacio, este debe ser utilizado como ejemplo de la práctica del TNR en las diferentes comunidades, como método efectivo de control de animales callejeros.</p> <p>Son más los daños que aporta esta medida, que los beneficios que supone, siendo una dañina, muy peligrosa y viciada.</p>
1549	<p>On my first visit to PR, I wasn't expecting to find so many cats, after doing research and seeing information posted by SAVEAGATO Foundation, I loved that I was able to interact with so many vibrant personalities, and it made me vacation experience that much more unique. I truly believe that what saveagato is doing to preserve these cats is the right thing to do.</p>
1550	<p>Dear all,</p> <p>As a long-time visitor of San Juan, and partner of a native Puerto Rican, I do not agree with the National Park Service proposed plan to "manage" the cat colony of El Morro, and I would be devastated if it were put into effect.</p> <p>It is inaccurate to classify the cats as an "invasive species." Cats were already in San Juan before the construction of El Morro was completed, and would have almost certainly been welcomed by the Spanish for pest control. It would not be unreasonable to believe there were cats roaming around the area in the 17th century, just as we see today. The cat colony is a part of the living history of the area.</p> <p>El Morro is a best example of peaceful co-existence between cats and humans. The cats do not bother or harass any humans; on the contrary, their presence is almost always welcomed by the humans. The cats themselves are happy and peaceful.</p> <p>Rather, to control overpopulation, more attention should be directed to a Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) program. TNR is the only humane and beneficial solution to managing the cat population. The local organization, Save a Gato, has been a valuable partner to the National Park Service, and I am confident they will continue to be. Any funds or attention that has been slated for the proposed plan should be diverted to Save a Gato or any other local cat rescue league to provide more resources for TNR. I have also recently made a monetary donation to Save a Gato.</p> <p>I urge the National Park Service to reconsider the plan and to collaborate with local organizations to finalize an alternative plan to ensure the continued safety and life of these beautiful creatures. I am looking forward to visiting El Morro in January and I hope to see the cats in their rightful and peaceful home.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
1551	<p>Pienso que sacar a los gatitos de SU HOGAR no es una opción. Visito San Juan frecuentemente y los gatos ya son parte del pueblo. Los gatos de otros lugares en avenidas peligrosas sufren a ser atropellados o otro accidente PERO esos que están en San Juan están</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>protegidos y tienen comida y agua. ¿Que razones hay de verdad para querer sacarlos? No entiendo. Me pareció gracioso ver comentarios que hay ratas en el área por la comida de los gatos. ¿Ratas en el area donde hay gatos? Por favor. Vi otro comentario sobre el olor de los gatos que NO es verdad pq yo los visito y no es algo para quejarse. Además los gatos se pasan en cierta área específica (al frente de la casita Save a gato) que no están las casas ni cerca para quejarse.</p> <p>La NPS y otras agencias deberían financiar todas las ayudas que necesiten para dejarles a esos pobres gatitos vivir su vida allí. Las personas siempre terminan destruyendo y matando a criaturas indefensas. Es algo muy bonito que tengan a esos animalitos y les provean comida y agua ya que todos sabemos que no es algo común.</p>
1552	<p>As a past visitor to this National Park, I ask that the Park Service work with local animal care groups to mass sterilize these beloved cats. Removing these cats will only allow for more (unsterilized) cats to take their place and multiply, in what is known in nature as the "vacuum effect." Catching and removing (or killing) cats is therefore futile. It is an expensive, deadly cycle which yields no long-term benefits. Resources are better used to further Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) efforts, as a fixed cat colony is fairly stable and will not increase on its own.</p> <p>Organizations such as Save A Gato (SAG) have been working tirelessly to achieve a having a healthy, sterilized cat population. I urge you to support organizations such as SAG in their attempts for a long-term solution.</p>
1553	<p>I am strongly in favor of the National Park Serve proposed action to humanely remove the free-roaming cats at Paseo del Morro. As an avian ecologist who has conducted research on free-roaming cats in San Juan, I urge the NPS to move forward with efforts to remove cats from the site for the health and well-being of humans, wildlife, and the cats themselves.</p> <p>As noted in the Public Scoping Newsletter, free-roaming domestic cats are an invasive species that have a variety of negative effects on wildlife, ecosystem health, and public health. The long-running TNR program has failed to achieve the purported goal of reducing the number of cats for reasons outlined in the Public Scoping Newsletter. Even if TNR did manage to reduce the cat population (which is extremely unlikely; Castillo and Clarke 2003, Andersen et al. 2004), sterilized cats that are allowed to roam freely still kill wildlife (Greenwell et al. 2019), spread diseases such as toxoplasmosis (Dabritz and Conrad 2010), defecate in public areas (Afonso et al. 2008), and can be injured or killed.</p> <p>The location of high densities of cats in this coastal area presents a major risk for transmission of the parasite <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> to marine mammals as well as to humans. The parasite reaches marine ecosystems when domestic cats defecate outdoors and <i>T. gondii</i> oocysts in their feces wash into waterways; together, owned and unowned cats deposit an estimated 1.2 million tons of feces in the environment per year in the U.S. (VanWormer et al. 2016). Researchers have found Toxoplasmosis in stranded manatees in Puerto Rico (Bossart et al. 2012). Humans who inadvertently ingest <i>T. gondii</i> oocysts from contaminated water, soil, fruits and vegetables, sandboxes, etc. can also develop toxoplasmosis, which is especially dangerous for immunocompromised and pregnant people. Residents of San Juan have a right to enjoy public spaces that are safe and clean without worrying about the threat of zoonotic disease.</p> <p>Furthermore, during a camera trapping study in 2018 (manuscript in prep), colleagues and I obtained countless photos of free-roaming cats in Puerto Rico with serious injuries and diseases such as mange (I would be happy to share example photos if requested). These</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>injuries demonstrate that life on the streets is not safe or humane for cats. As a cat lover with three adopted indoor cats of my own, I oppose letting cats roam freely because of the dangers they experience, in addition to the many negative effects on ecosystems.</p> <p>Even when feral cats are sterilized and fed regularly, as in TNR programs, they still hunt and kill wildlife (Greenwell et al. 2019). Puerto Rico has a variety of endemic fauna found nowhere else in the world (Miller and Lugo 2009), and free-roaming cats directly and indirectly threaten populations of island wildlife (Medina et al. 2011). Maintaining colonies of this invasive species at a protected National Historic Site is at odds with the mission of the National Park System to "preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System."</p> <p>Local cat rescue organizations such as Save A Gato have good intentions. However, their current method of feeding cats and practicing TNR has not only failed to reduce the feral cat population, it has created a hazard to public health and wildlife by concentrating high numbers of cats that defecate all over the National Historic Site, fight and spread diseases, and prey on native wildlife. This is not an effective way to help free-roaming cats, and it is not backed by science (Lepczyk et al. 2022). Furthermore, it is completely incompatible with the NPS stated mission.</p> <p>I strongly encourage the NPS's proposed action to trap and remove feral cats at the Paseo del Morro, find indoor homes for as many as possible, and ban feeding stations. I understand that there is a tremendous amount of opposition to euthanasia from cat rescue organizations like Save A Gato, which claim that TNR is humane and effective (even though this assertion is not backed by science.) If necessary, the NPS could explore a compromise option of working with SAG to construct a completely fenced and enclosed cat "sanctuary" to contain free-roaming cats that cannot be adopted. This should be combined with trapping of all cats outside the enclosure (with adoption when possible), removal of outside feeding stations, and a firm cap on the maximum number of cats at the sanctuary to avoid overcrowding. This option would require substantial funding to build and maintain, and would require ongoing monitoring, financial support, careful veterinary care, and a firm commitment to continued trapping and removal of cats outside the enclosure. However, it could provide a more acceptable option for cat advocates if they cannot reach agreement on other proposed NPS actions.</p> <p>I urge the NPS to take actions to manage the feral cat population that are based on the best available science, and I am confident that the proposed actions will benefit people, wildlife, and cats. Community buy-in and involvement throughout the process are of course critical, and I believe in the ability of the NPS to arrive at an option that is supported by both the public and by the scientific literature.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important topic. I would be happy to provide additional comments and share resources if that would be helpful.</p>
1554	<p>Please DO NOT remove the cats! They live in peace and don't bother anyone. They are NOT pests, in fact they CONTROL pests. Removing them will increase the population of rodents making Viejo San Juan an unattractive place for the people that live there and for tourists. What's better to see cute cats or seeing rats all over the place? They pose no threat to anyone and people can still enjoy the walk and some even go to adopt cats. There is a whole organization of people taking care of them too. Please, the cats are our friends.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1555	<p>Saludos</p> <p>Espero que estén bien. ¿Quisiera saber cuál es el plan remover los gatos del Viejo San Juan? Los gatos son inofensivos, mantienen el área libre de roedores y son un atractivo para las personas que pasan por las áreas dónde habitan. Save A Gato los alimenta y los esteriliza. Una vez esterilizados la comunidad gatuna va ir disminuyendo poco a poco. En efecto, no se ven gatos pequeños, todos son adultos, lo que es indicio de que no se están reproduciendo. Talvez Parques Nacionales puede asignar unos fondos a Save A Gato para el bienestar de los animales. Sería una solución armoniosa y para el bienestar de los gatos. La preocupación principal, qué harán con los gatos que remuevan: les buscarán casa?, los llevarán a un santuario?, les van a practicar eutanasia? Gracias por la atención.</p>
1556	<p>As a trained environmental scientist who has witnessed the destruction that even slightly poorly-managed, small (less than 20) feral cat colonies can impart on ecosystems, I support the proposed action as stated in the PDF document of cat removal. The cat removal plan is thorough and responsible, and I also support it as an avid national/state park explorer/supporter. Just like the Everglades can't function as a natural habitat and wildlife sanctuary where invasive snakes are present, San Juan National Historic Site can't do the same where invasive cats are present. I thank all those involved for tackling this hard issue.</p>
1557	<p>Dear SAJU Superintendent,</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for TNR, adoptable animal transport to areas where there is demand for adoption (such as within the mainland U.S.), as well as expanded low cost/no cost spay/neuter programs & education within Puerto Rico. TNR is the only humane and effective approach to managing community cats. Community cats live happy and healthy lives outdoors. However, since most community cats are not socialized or friendly to people, they cannot be adopted and live indoors, making community cats the most at-risk animals in shelters. They usually do not leave animal shelters alive. Catching and dumping OSJ's community cats into shelters will likely result in the mass killing of these cats. Studies show TNR stabilizes community cat populations by stopping the breeding cycle, thereby improving cats' lives by relieving them of the constant stresses of mating and pregnancy, while also vaccinating them against rabies. TNR benefits the public by stopping disruptive mating behaviors like yowling, spraying, roaming, and fighting. TNR also saves taxpayer money by reducing shelter intake, shelter euthanasia, and calls to animal control.</p> <p>Hundreds of communities have adopted an official TNR ordinance or policy, and thousands more conduct grassroots, volunteer-led programs, like Save a Gato. These numbers continue to rise as more communities realize the outdated approach of catching and killing cats is cruel and ineffective. Moreover, the proposed removal of the food bins along the Paseo will not effectively deter cats from the area. Feeding bans have been shown to be ineffective in decreasing community cat populations. These cats do not depend on people feeding them to survive. As scavengers, cats will find food in garbage cans and dumpsters. Cats are territorial, bonded to their surroundings, and will not leave simply because compassionate people can no longer legally feed them. Ultimately, a feeding ban will result in cats roaming farther to find food and digging through people's trash.</p> <p>Instead, expanding access on the island to low cost or no cost spay/neuter programs will greatly reduce the population of unwanted, abandoned animals flooding areas like OSJ where misguided individuals dump their cats, knowing someone else will care for them. This is not just a cat problem in OSJ, but a Commonwealth-wide problem of dumping unwanted cats and</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>dogs. Indeed, there is an area on the south side of the island colloquially known as Dead Dog Beach, reflecting this practice and its unfortunate effects on the environment and the animals that are dumped. Studies show that in homes where the income was \$35,000 or higher, almost all cats (around 93%) were neutered, while 75% of unneutered cats live in homes where the income was less than \$35,000. (Data from alleycat.org). The lower-income owners who were interviewed primarily cited high cost as the reason for not sterilizing their cats. With much of Puerto Rico's population living below the poverty line, spay/neuter is inaccessible. Thus, unwanted cats are often dumped in Old San Juan or other areas of the island, as the perceived only viable alternative to humanely unload the burden of unwanted pets. Education and access to low cost/no cost sterilization resources is key. Let us tackle the problem at its root, rather than band-aid the symptoms.</p> <p>I propose the National Park Service partner with local government, Save a Gato, and organizations like the Humane Society, to facilitate implementation of regular low cost/no cost spay/neuter initiatives in OSJ. This will reduce the effects of animal dumping and the burden on the underfunded, 100% volunteer group that is Save a Gato. This should be a catalyst to implementing low cost/no cost sterilization island wide, to truly address this problem once and for all. Education and access to sterilization resources will humanely curb the population of unwanted animals. Not catch and elimination. Not TNR without resources or support. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
1558	<p>As a San Juan citizen I am opposed to the removal of the cat colony in Old San Juan.</p> <p>To exterminate this cats would be a crime.</p> <p>They are part of Paseo de la Princesa.</p> <p>Do not remove them!</p>
1559	<p>Please do not harm any of these cats. Let them be. Let them stay. Save a Gato has spent two decades making sure that these animals are healthy and sterilized. I love Puerto Rico. I love the United States. Please don't hurt them. And don't hurt the people that volunteer to make sure these animals are okay. Any decision to remove or eliminate these cats will be devastating. Listen to Save a Gato. Help them instead. You have the resources to save so many lives. Please don't use your power to destroy these sweet animals and the people that help them.</p>
1560	<p>Proposed Action is absolutely needed. No action is entirely unacceptable and a danger to ecosystems and public health. TNR is an unmitigated disaster.</p>
1561	<p>The action proposed pf removing cats from El Morro is not being justified by any scientific and peer-reviewed evidence. The US Forest Service pamphlet is full of false and misleading information. Save a Gato has been able to control the cat population through its TNR program and the assertion that it hasn't worked is false. Also, the assertion that cats cause disturbance to visitors and transmit illness is extremely misleading since the opposite is true, cats keep the rodent population under control which is the real threat for sanitation and illness; also many visitors enjoy seeing the cute cats that are in the area. Save a Gato has carried out a herculean task for many years while being a self sufficient and well respected animal care organizarion locally and internationally, with almost no support from government</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	funds. Save a Gato should be allowed to continue their mission and allow the cats who live in El Morro to live out their lives. The cat colony has persisted for hundreds of years since the Spaniards first settled the area, do not use tax payer funds to carry out a project that will destroy the cat lives based on unproven and unscientific methods that are not supported by animal organizations or the community of Puerto Rico. The cat removal should not continue to be considered by the US Forest Service, it is improper that a government agency even suggests taking such action that goes against federal laws of conservation and ethical treatment of animals. Instead the US Forest Service should continue supporting the efforts of Save a Gato to effectively manage the cat population, as it has been doing for the last 20 years. I stand in support with all my heart for the cats of El Morro and Save a Gato.
1562	I'm completely against the Federal Government (National Park Service) proposal to eliminate the historic cat colony that inhabits Paseo del Morro in Old San Juan. These cats are not harmful to the people and they do not represent in any way a threat to the historic site. Being an old city built many years ago, the cat colony is needed to control other animals like rats that can really cause serious health issues to visitors and residents. Every cat deserves a life free from hunger, discomfort, injury or disease. The cat colony at Old San Juan is our responsibility to care for. With the community and tourists efforts, Save a Gato have been able to take care of this cats and ensure their well-being. Eliminate them is not the answer.
1563	If you remove the cats you will create a vacuum effect. More cats will move back in. Stop the killing besides were you have cats keep the rats 🐭 away.
1564	I am writing to oppose any plan other than the current plan for the cat colony at El Morro. TNR works in hundreds of communities in the US and in protected sites throughout Europe. In fact, feral cats are a draw for tourists around the world, especially in Rome, where a feral cat colony coexists with an archeological site where Julius Caesar was killed. I am just now back from a tour group who spent an hour on El Morro and every member of our tour group engaged with the cats. Cats represent a low cost way to keep children engaged in complex history. If nothing else, the headlines of NPS euthanizing feral cats is a disaster that would reverberate throughout the United States. Please reconsider.
1565	Having been to Puerto Rico and the NPS sites the cats are not detrimental to the experience. The cats are a part of the island and from my understanding they are cared for by an organization that does TNR actively. The NPS provides refuge for the cats which has been abandoned by their owners and they're part of the fabric of PR as much as the national parks. If the national park didn't exist the cats would be existing there regardless. Removing them or killing them would be a truly abhorrent solution.
1566	My first time going to Puerto Rico, I found out about the cat park and made my way over there! I enjoyed my stay in the park and seeing all the cat living in harmony. I returned to Puerto Rico 2 years later and I made a point to visit the park again. Please don't remove the cats! I believe it adds to the charm of Old San Juan!
1567	Please consider the cats well-being and health. The NPS is their home. I just visited San Juan and was delighted to see the thriving colonies of cats. Save the cats!
1568	TNR is the only effective and humane method of managing community cats. Trap and remove will not maintain a stable colony, as new, unfixed cats will move in and replace the fixed cats. Cats are territorial and should remain in the only home they know, as long as they can be TNR'd.
1569	I support the cats and encourage the park service to find a way to make sure the cats are neutered/spayed and cared. I'm looking forward to hearing how the park service works to steward the cats. Thank you

Corr ID	Correspondence
1570	Please do not remove the cats. Local cats are always such a wonderful part of travel and visiting new places. A community that supports animals represents the best of humans. It would not only be cruel and a shame to remove these cats from their home, it would dissuade tourists from visiting a place that values "commerce" and potential profit over the local community, in all forms that communities exist in.
1571	Dear NPS, Please reconsider your stray cat management plan; please allocate further funds to TNR and friendly cat placement programs in homes or working environments. Culling of cats does not address the core issue of lack of sterilization that is responsible for the stray cat population.
1572	<p>I would like to provide comments in support of Save a Gato and the cats of Old San Juan. I think it would be shameful to remove these animals that do more good then harm. They keep the population of mice/rats under control. I am sure you will never be able to keep up to the increase in the rodent population. These cats are being taken care of my the organization, locals and visitors.</p> <p>I have adopted a kitten right from the shelter and brought home to Canada. This organization and the cats of Old San Juan are recognized world wide. There is much more the Park Services could do to help then removing these animals. You will never remove them all but will end the services of the volunteers and interest that visitors have in coming to this location.</p> <p>Please do not erase your history of these colonies of cats.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
1573	<p>I have spent a lot of time in historic PR and seeing this proposal makes me very uncomfortable. Why not help the TNR process, educate tourists, install machines to HELP the cats (and the environment) like this: https://youtu.be/OB4Xl2MGn1Q</p> <p>By putting up educational signs and places people can donate to help, and installing recycling feeding stations, imagine how much better it could be for everyone! Education is engagement instead of destroying the colonies and hurting the animals!!!</p>
1574	If you're not going to invest in safely and humanely transferring these cats into homes or sanctuaries, the only ethical thing is to let the cats be. This is now they're home, and the only reason they are there is because of human interference. They do not deserve to suffer, or be displaced/disappeared just because they're considered a nuisance. They are living, breathing, sentient creatures, who deserve peace, and a home
1575	These cats bring so much character and good energy to the area. You should trap, neuter, and release the cats back to their homes, that would help the problem, while still keeping the integrity of this space. Please consider better options.
1576	Please consider you would be removing these animals from their home. The goal should be coexistence, not removal. And we all know this is something that can be accomplished. You visit Old Istanbul, the Colosseum in Rome, the cats are an accepted and loved part of the landscape. I've never heard anyone complain yet I've heard many people speak of them fondly. The communities care for these animals as they are respected as legitimate residents. It's our duty as civilized people to coexist with all animals. Especially in a National Park of all places. Thank you.
1577	<p>Please do not remove the cats from the park service site or kill them. Instead educate the public about animal rescue and work with the local rescue group that is helping feed and TNR the cats. The cats are not hurting anyone.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1578	<p>Hello!</p> <p>One of the main reasons we are going to visit Puerto Rico is for the cats! Many people love to see towns that rally together to care for their stray animals. Please consider trapping, neutering, and releasing. Cats are very intelligent animals and deserve to live free. They control other pests as well! Please please please do not harm them. Thank you!</p>
1579	<p>Instead of extracting these cats from the ruins, you should consider making it a sanctuary for them. All around the world ruins have been adapted into animal sanctuaries. Take Torre Argentina for instance. People come from around the world to wander the ruins and pet the cats.</p> <p>These animals are in trouble and are in need of human intervention, but in a positive way. You cannot disrupt an entire colony without casualties. If you were to make it into a sanctuary you can get funding to spay and neuter, to feed and home them. They can also be available for adoption.</p> <p>Instead of humans destroying something that could be so beautiful, you should take this opportunity to do good. My cats give me such great peace and I know they will do that for visitors.</p>
1580	<p>Please do not make any changes to the management plan for the cats of San Juan that will harm these cats. If there is an increase in the cat population, please increase TNR which will help the population within 10 years. Please invest time and monetary resources to supporting the Save a Gato charity, or another charity or service, that can help TNR these lives. Thank you.</p>
1581	<p>Cats would improve visitor experience, they add to the liveliness of households and I would imagine they do the same for a country</p>
1582	<p>No los remuevan, ya son parte del encanto de San Juan. Asígnele fondos a Save a Gato para que puede seguir alimentándolos, practicando TNR y cuidándolos</p>
1583	<p>Dear SAJU Superintendent,</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for TNR, adoptable animal transport to areas where there is demand for adoption (such as within the mainland U.S.), and expanded low cost/no cost spay/neuter programs & education within Puerto Rico. TNR is the only humane and effective approach to managing community cats. Community cats live happy and healthy lives outdoors. However, since most community cats are not socialized or friendly to people, they cannot be adopted and live indoors, making community cats the most at-risk animals in shelters. They usually do not leave animal shelters alive. Catching and dumping OSJ's community cats into shelters will likely result in the mass killing of these cats.</p> <p>Studies show TNR stabilizes community cat populations by stopping the breeding cycle, thereby improving cats' lives by relieving them of the constant stresses of mating and pregnancy, while also vaccinating them against rabies. TNR benefits the public by stopping disruptive mating behaviors like yowling, spraying, roaming, and fighting. TNR also saves taxpayer money by reducing shelter intake, shelter euthanasia, and calls to animal control.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Hundreds of communities have adopted an official TNR ordinance or policy, and thousands more conduct grassroots, volunteer-led programs, like Save a Gato. These numbers continue to rise as more communities realize the outdated approach of catching and killing cats is cruel and ineffective. Moreover, the proposed removal of the food bins along the Paseo will not effectively deter cats from the area. Feeding bans have been shown to be ineffective in decreasing community cat populations. These cats do not depend on people feeding them to survive. As scavengers, cats will find food in garbage cans and dumpsters. Cats are territorial, bonded to their surroundings, and will not leave simply because compassionate people can no longer legally feed them. Ultimately, a feeding ban will result in cats roaming farther to find food and digging through people's trash. Instead, expanding access on the island to low cost or no cost spay/neuter programs will greatly reduce the population of unwanted, abandoned animals flooding areas like OSJ where misguided individuals dump their cats, knowing someone else will care for them. This is not just a cat problem in OSJ, but a Commonwealth-wide problem of dumping unwanted cats and dogs. Indeed, there is an area on the south side of the island colloquially known as Dead Dog Beach, reflecting this practice and its unfortunate effects on the environment and the animals that are dumped.</p> <p>Studies show that in homes where the income was \$35,000 or higher, almost all cats (around 93%) were neutered, while 75% of unneutered cats live in homes where the income was less than \$35,000. (Data from alleycat.org). The lower-income owners who were interviewed primarily cited high cost as the reason for not sterilizing their cats. With much of Puerto Rico's population living below the poverty line, spay/neuter is inaccessible. Thus, unwanted cats are often dumped in Old San Juan or other areas of the island, as the perceived only viable alternative to humanely unload the burden of unwanted pets. Thus, education and access to low cost/no cost sterilization resources is key. Let's tackle the problem at its root, rather than band-aid the symptoms. I propose the National Park Service partner with local government, Save a Gato, and organizations like the Humane Society, to facilitate implementation of regular low cost/no cost spay/neuter initiatives in OSJ. This will reduce the effects of animal dumping and the burden on the underfunded, 100% volunteer group that is Save a Gato. This should be a catalyst to implementing low cost/no cost sterilization island wide, to truly address this problem once and for all. Education and access to sterilization resources will humanely curb the population of unwanted animals. Not catch and elimination. Not TNR without resources or support. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
1584	<p>This needs to be stopped!!!! The cats in Puerto Rico must stay and not be trapped/ killed off! They are there to do many important jobs. Put all resources into spay and neuter to reduce the growing population! Your " solution" is will absolutely DESTROY Puerto Rico more than any hurricane.</p>
1585	<p>Protect the cats; they are part of our culture and deserve to keep their home. Stop this cruelty.</p>
1586	<p>Dear NPS,</p> <p>Who will conduct the remotion of the feral cats? What will be the process and how will you proceed? Where will you take the colonies?</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Why are you wanting to remove the colonies from old SJ?</p> <p>Es muy fácil publicar un &quot;headline&quot; que informa su intención en remover colonias de gatos ferales cuando remover gatos de su territorio significa un arduo tedioso y costoso proceso. Quieren remover las colonias, y ¿donde los llevarán? Llevar colonias felinas ferales implica procesos de transportaciones, cientos de haulas, cubre haulas, manos para las transportaciones, lugar donde mantendrán los felinos hasta que se acostumbren a su nuevo hogar, un terrenos o otro lugar donde puedan vivir, inversion económica, etc...porque tratar y manejar la remoción de colonias ferales negligentemente o de manera descuidada seria una iniciativa cruel de su parte que definitivamente repercutirá en la historia de su mal manejo de la situación.</p> <p>Si tienen la disposición y el dinero, ¿porque entonces no atender el problema o las molestias que plantean desde la raíz?</p> <p>¿Porque no animan a crear un programa que atiende la realidad de los animales en la isla de Puerto Rico?</p> <p>¿Porque no hay un método de vigilancia o carteles que avisa al publico que no se puede abandonar gatos en VSJ?</p> <p>¿Porque no hay un programa en la isla que emplea a personas capaces de visitar las comunidades para esterilizar a los animales callejeros hasta crear una red de apoyo para que los ciudadanos acceder a los recursos para eliminar la propagación de animales realengos?</p> <p>¿Porque no hay un &quot;outreach program&quot; para educar a la población puertorriqueña sobre los animales y cuales son los recursos para ayudar?</p> <p>¿Porque no han habido programas de apoyo a Save a Gato?</p> <p>¿Porque la isla todavia no tiene su propio programa de Trap Neuter Release (TNR)?</p> <p>O sea, ¿el problema es solo en el paseo del Morro?</p> <p>Y los deambulantes adictos, ¿que hacemos con ellos? Los movemos a otro lugar ¿y eso resolverá el problema?</p> <p>Aqui el desafio es mucho mas grande que solo el paseo del Morro. Esta situación nos viene a mostrar cuan desorganizados estamos en nuestra isla y ¿solo les importa el paseo del Morro?. Vale pues empecemos por aquí.</p> <p>NO APOYO LA REMOCION DE LAS COLONIAS FELINAS DEL VIEJO SAN JUAN.</p> <p>Ademas que no han claramente demostrado como sera el plan de remoción, ni a donde ni quien lo hará y como cuidaran a los felinos para que puedan hacer la transición, remover las colonias felinas no es la solución.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. El efecto vacío o &quot;Vaccum Effect&quot;; sacar gatos de un lugar, crea un vacío que permitirá a otros instalarse. 2. TNR es la manera mas eficaz de controlar la población de gatos. <p>Si hay molestias por la excreta y la alimentación:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reubicar y re-organizar los puntos de alimentación 2. Buscar ayuda con expertos lideres de programas de gatos ferales.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>3. Organizan un sistema de limpieza con la ciudad de SJ y el DTOP. 4. Tienen el recurso de Washington para mover y hacer cambios.</p> <p>Hago un llamado a la re-organización del sistema, es tiempo que ayuden de verdad y no a conveniencia.</p> <p>Estoy agradecida por el manteniendo de la parte histórica de nuestro casco antiguo, pero a la vez entiendo que tienen una oportunidad para realmente ayudar y crear el cambio necesario para prevenir la propagación de los animales ferales/realengos en nuestra isla...empezando por el Viejo SJ.</p> <p>Nosotros les hemos pedido apoyo con esta situación, no creo que nos hayan escuchado. También, les hemos pedido ayuda con la restauración del parque Infantil cerca de las cancha de Tennis, y nuestros esfuerzos en crear un liaison con NPS han sido en vano.</p> <p>Entiendo que solo harán lo que les da la gana.</p> <p>Ojalá encuentren el camino.</p>
1587	<p>As a frequent cruise passenger to San Juan, I can say without hesitation that one of my favorite parts of this port is spending time with the cats of the Paseo and visiting the Save a Gato location. Besides the usual vacation items, my suitcase also contains treats for the cats. I have volunteered for over 20 years with my local humane society and also volunteered with a Trap Neuter Return (TNR) Program in the past. Though not an expert, I am well aware of the concerns regarding free roaming cats. The most effective way to manage the local cat population along the Paseo is to continue and expand the current TNR program. Lethal methods of removal may initially control the population but it will not prevent other cats from eventually moving into the area or stop residents from dumping cats that have not been altered. I encourage you to continue to partner with Save a Gato and expand sterilization efforts. The use of tax dollars to kill cats has continually been unpopular in the court of public opinion. The Paseo cats are beloved by both residents and tourists. There are humane ways to control the population and I offer Project Bay Cat in Northern California as just one example of a successful TNR program. I have always championed the National Park Service and hope you will have the courage to be a model for other government agencies in regards to the humane treatment of animals.</p>
1588	<p>I am a fan and follower of Save a Gato organization for a long time. I even had the opportunity to shop four years ago a beautiful kitty that came as my other cat's companion. To my surprise the pandemic started. I had to stay home working remote for almost a year. Through that time my Nina became my pandemic companion. Now we are obsessed with each other. Taking out of Old San Juan all the cats is a cruel decision. Animals not only are good energy neutralizes, their nature, the instinct is pray, they are natural hunters. They maintain control of different plagues rats, coacraches, etc. The population of cats have grown, but not because they have not been doing their job. People from other places have been dropping cats in San Juan so Save a Gato can work with them.</p> <p>Please, don't euthanize these animals. If you want to help, provide options in other that Save a Gato can manage adoptions and for those that can not be adopted they can be transferred to sanctuaries, etc.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1589	<p>[ESPAÑOL]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - La gente que se queja de los gatos son aquellos que no saben nada del animal. - Si removerlos para controlar enfermedades fuese una razón sincera, las palomas del parque de palomas las hubiesen sacado hace rato también. - ¿Quieren reducir la cantidad de gatos? ¡Adóptenlos! Promuevan la adopción de gatos a la vez que lo hacen para perros. Hay muchas ferias de adopción donde solo tienen perros y excluyen a los gatos. - ¿No quieren adoptar? Esterilicen, vacunen y busquen un hogar para ellos o devuélvelos al paseo del Morro. - Ponerlos a dormir no es la solución. <hr/> <p>[English]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most people complaining are those that have biased opinions about the animal. - If controlling diseases carried by animals is a reason to remove them, the pigeons from the pigeon park would have been removed long ago. - Want to limit the amount of stray cats? Adopt them! Promote adoption campaigns for cats along with those for dogs. I've seen many animal adoption events where dogs are the only option. - Don't want to adopt? Spay/neuter, vaccinate and either find them a home or let them be at the Morro. - Euthanasia is not the solution.
1590	<p>I have visited San Juan, Puerto Rico several times, and always spend time in Old San Juan. I find the cats to be charming, a part of the history of Old San Juan, and I thought a symbiotic way to manage rodents - just as cats have done for centuries. I wonder how many of those cats are descendants of those who arrived on sailing ships from Europe?</p> <p>I disagree with plans that would remove them from their home. Instead, ensure they are spayed/neutered, that they have basic veterinary care, adequate food and shelter from the elements. Let them continue to provide natural rodent control, give them humane care and acknowledge their role in the history of this and other vital ports.</p> <p>Please.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
1591	<p>Nací, me crié, vivo y trabajo en San Juan. Tengo 45 años. Cuando era niña paseaba con mis padres por el Viejo San Juan casi todos los domingos. Siempre ha habido gatos en San Juan y visitarlos ha sido un entretenimiento sano y accesible que he disfrutado toda mi vida. De hecho, los gatos llevan cientos de años en el Viejo San Juan, desde mucho antes de que el Servicio de Parques tomara control sobre los predios de lo que hoy es el parque. La gran diferencia que hay con respecto a cuando era niña es que ahora los gatos de San Juan están siendo cuidados, controlados y atendidos por la comunidad y por Save a Gato.</p> <p>No estoy de acuerdo con ningún plan que incluya sacar a estos gatos de su hogar. Lo único que debiera hacerse es apoyar a Save a Gato para que continúe su encomiable labor y que los sanjuaneros, todos los puertorriqueños y quienes nos visitan de todas partes del mundo podamos seguir disfrutando de los gatos de San Juan, que son parte de nuestra ciudad.</p>
1592	To Whom it May Concern,

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>I have been a professional archaeologist for 5 years and am the field director for SEARCH Inc's Caribbean group here in Puerto Rico. I have also been involved with TNR of cats on the island for over a year. I am strongly for the "No Action" alternative for the Free-Ranging Cat Management Plan. Save a Gato's mission should continue, not end, and support for the organization should be increased to manage the population via TNR.</p> <p>While I live in Barrio Cedro in Carolina, I enjoy visiting Old San Juan and showing the area to friends and family who visit. I always take them to the Parque de Los Gatos and everyone has enjoyed the cats. The character of Old San Juan would be diminished without them.</p> <p>I'm for the no action alternative because the presence of the cats is consistent with the cultural landscape of the area. Cats were first introduced to the Island by the Spanish to cull rat populations and would have been a common sight in the colonial period of San Juan. The continued presence of cats is therefore consistent with the area's integrity of setting, feeling, and association as a cultural landscape of foreign influence. The removal of the cats would impact the integrity of the site and the ability of the site to communicate its cultural significance.</p> <p>From having been active in TNR'ing cats on the Island, primarily a colony in Santurce, I recognize that it is an uphill battle. The complete removal of cats seems untenable to me because NPS does not control all of Old San Juan. As stated in the bulletin, cats come into the colony from other populations. An increase of 80 cats over a 16 year period is a testament to the tenacity of Save a Gato considering the high rate of abandonment on the Island. With increased support, Save a Gato's TNR efforts can be increased and continue. Focus on isolating the population by ensuring that no further cats are abandoned in the area would also help.</p> <p>As far as the cat's being a health concern, I think any data on casualties needs to be published and until any data is presented, this is not a valid argument for their removal.</p> <p>Lastly, the removal of cats from the area by the Federal Government, in opposition to local sentiment to the contrary, perpetuates neo-colonial relationships and power dynamics. Management of the local cat population should be performed by local stakeholders.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
1593	<p>Encuentro completamente inaudito y retrógrado esta iniciativa. Cuando en las grandes ciudades alrededor del mundo se ha adoptado a Los Gatos y perros como parte del atractivo turístico, aquí ustedes proponen deshacerse de ellos? Lo que tienen que hacer es BUSCAR maneras de ayudar a estas organizaciones que velan por el bienestar de estos animales y promover la TENENCIA responsable, la esterilización y las BONDADES de tener un gato como mascota. No promover el odio cultural que prevalece en la Isla. Les invito a salir del cajón de estrechez mental y MIRAR hacia otros países y jurisdicciones y como han atendido el asunto. Se necesita a gritos, una campaña educativa por los medios sobre el tema del abandono animal. Ustedes son parte del GOBIERNO. Cumplan su función con el pueblo. Y por favor, entiendan que somos personas inteligentes en esta isla. Si algo quieren aportar para evitar especies invasivas que amenazan a las especies nativas, pongan su grano de arena en cuanto a</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	los caimanes y pitones reticuladas que nos invaden. Eso si es preocupante.
1594	Please do not remove these cats from their home. They are well taken care of and visitors appreciate seeing them in this environment. Cats are wonderful animals and we as people can all learn about the importance they show society in terms of their natural beauty and individual personalities.
1595	Please continue to work with Save a Gato to help these cats. Your plan online does not specify what will happen to the cats once they are captured and that is concerning.
1596	Please let the cats stay! It's one of the best things about visiting - to get to see them happy and cared for. Compassion for other living things is important
1597	Save the cats!! Please do not remove them from their homes. We come to Puerto Rico often and seeing these free ranging cats is one of the best experiences. These cats are a part of something larger, it's amazing to see them all roaming around together. They are NOT a bother. Please, please let them be!!
1598	I find it outrageous that they consider removing these poor animals from their home, because it is their home! The organization has worked hard in his care and there are many of us who support him and consider all this a serious injustice. Animals just like human beings suffer and have rights. Leave them alone!
1599	Desde el inicio de la historia el viejo San Juan era conocido por sus hermosos paisajes y oleja de mar que le rodea. Dicha belleza se debe a la naturaleza creada por Dios; Naturaleza que incluye todo tipo de animales incluso gatos y perros. En lugar de querer eliminar todos esos gatos deberían brindarle cuidados colocarles chips de rastreo y hacerlos participe de esa atracción turística que todo el mundo encuentra en San Juan.
1600	For those that doesn't know, Old San Juan is full of rats. These cats are the ones in charge of exterminating these rats, for the benefit of the residents of Old San Juan and vicinity. They are spayed and vaccinated, so they don't bring any plaque or sickness to the area. Instead, of considering having these cats taken away, please take action with the Zoo in Mayaguez. Animals are dying and living in precarious conditions. Thank you.
1601	Please, DON'T get rid of the cats. They are harmless, friendly, and deserves their natural space. We visit Old San Juan (OSJ) frequently just to see them. There are a lot of European cities full of cats (Toledo in Spain, Porto and Lisboa in Portugal, Cordoba in Spain, etc.) who are part of the ecosystem and tourists loved them. Tourists go to specific areas just to see them. They are pet friendly cities; why OSJ can't be like any of those? There are other plagues like "gallinas de palo" who deserve attention but not the OSJ cats. Please, reconsider the action. There are a lot of volunteers taking care of them and OSJ citizens as well as other from the island, like them too. They also help to keep the city without rats, which are extremely dangerous animals. Cats in OSJ deserve their space as we as humans deserve ours. We all can live together and enjoy the natural beauty of OSJ.
1602	Please leave the cats alone! They have been there for so many years and are a part of Viejo San Juan. Save a gato does everything they can to prevent more cats but since the government has no programs for this it is very difficult because people abandon cats there. The cats are not the problem is the uneducated people that dont understand that we need to prevent more cats WHILE taking care of the ones we already have there and the government that does nothing to help
1603	No maten los cabrones gatos jodios hijos de puta, animal cruelty es punishable by federal law. Mamense un pene

Corr ID	Correspondence
1604	<p>I was lucky enough to visit Puerto Rico last year, and the stray cats were an integral part of my experience. The cats add charm to the old city (and all parts of the island). There are plenty of other options besides removing the cats, such as trap-neuter-release programs. Expanding TNR efforts would be beneficial because this relieves the strain of constant mating pressure on the cats and also helps to stop certain behaviors such as spraying, yowling, and fighting. Please consider this as an option before removing the cats from their homes.</p>
1605	<p>Leave the hairballs alone!</p>
1606	<p>Those cats are doing fine where they are those cats are not suffering they're not sick they're not going hungry. They're actually keep the area past free and an area where there are a lot of old buildings. The cats also help as far as therapy for some people that go and visit them.</p> <p>There is some stuff that could be done to solve this problem if even though it's not really a problem but if someone could come up with a plan for spading or neutering at a more affordable cost I am sure there would be a lot more people willing to take that responsibility and expense.</p> <p>I for one I'm one of the people that usually catch neuter and release these felines but ever since the pandemic affordable programs have been eliminated.</p> <p>We most of the people want these cats to stay.</p> <p>Your attention to this matter and leaving the cats alone would be greatly appreciated.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thank you.</p>
1607	<p>Salvemos los gatitos en Viejo San Juan!!!!!!</p>
1608	<p>Leave the cats alone!</p>
1609	<p>I am writing to express my opinions on your proposal to eliminate the cats of Paseo Del Morro. I have visited this location multiple times as a tourist in Puerto Rico and it is often my first stop to visit with the cats and give them treats and love. I personally have never witnessed filth or disruption from these animals as referenced by the Park Service. They are simply a part of nature and are existing amongst many other animals and creatures on the island and do not pose a risk to humans.</p> <p>I have witnessed Save A Gato's work in caring for these animals and ensuring they can live a safe and comfortable life. Save A Gato works tirelessly to spay and neuter these cats to stop the endless cycle of reproduction which can cause the population to get out of control. This is the solution, allow those animals who already exist to live out their lives while also controlling for the future. Attempting to eradicate the population once is not a viable solution. Eventually cats from other areas will likely return here and without Save A Gato's spay/neuter efforts in place the population will likely get out of control again. Then what? Does the NPS intend to continue to kill innocent animals? Would it just be cats? Or would they go after birds and other animals as well? When does this stop?</p> <p>It is my suggestion that NPS devote it's time and money to working with Save A Gato to come to a solution that works for both the humans and the animals.</p>
1610	<p>No estoy de acuerdo. No se debe desplazar a ningún animal de su habitat, Aunque El Viejo San Juan sea un patrimonio cultural. Los Gatos ayudan mucho a controlar muchas plagas, cómo diferentes tipos de roedores, insectos y otros.</p>
1611	<p>I strongly oppose the mass killing of our beloved community cats. These animals are a vital part of Old San Juan's charm. They are friendly and loving but they also serve as plague control in the city. Without cats to hunt pests Old San Juan will be overrun with rats, roaches,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>iguanas and the like. The park service should allow the cats to roam freely as they are cared for by community organizations that make sure their needs are met and they pose minimal, if any, damage to the surrounding areas. Cats are a vital, cultural part of San Juan. Locals and foreigners enjoy their company, they are even part of the art of the city. I am strongly against the killing of these lovely creatures. I am sure there are other, more humane and dignified ways, to address any complaints about them. It will be a horrific thing to do this and it will forever be remembered as one of the most atrocious acts ever performed in the city. There's no need for this to happen, we stand with the cats of Old San Juan. Miaou, meow.</p>
1612	<p>This is a horror story. Instead of using the money to kill the cats. Gift the money to the organization that take care of the cats like Save a gato. Don't kill the cats please.</p>
1613	<p>As a permanent resident of Puerto Rico, I have visited and still visit Old San Juan. And have NEVER, EVER had any type of problems with the cats in the area. They are friendly, not a pest. And they do a really good public service which is to keep the area free of disgusting rats. If you should be worried about a pest, they are the rats. Those black boxes your organization have installed all over Old San Juan do nothing to trap or kill the rats. But the cats do their job effectively. Also, why kill the cats when there is a non-profit organization that takes care of them: they keep them vaccinated for the safety of the cats and people;;they give them anti-fleas and tick treatment; all are neutered, and I have never seen one cat attacking. They are a beautiful fixture in Old San Juan. Don't kill those beautiful animals. You'll be creating a really big sanitation problem if you kill them. Yes kill, because that's what you want to do, kill animals that have done nothing wrong. That live, are taken care of, and protect people, tourists, visitors of nasty things like rats and other problematic rodents. Please, let them live</p>
1614	<p>Increased TNR program instead of displacing these cats.</p>
1615	<p>These cats are a threat to the wildlife in the area, especially birds. They are also unhygienic and a possible foci of disease as they leave their feces everywhere. They can affect the economy of the area as visitors like myself shy away from visiting due to the offensive smells and risk of disease in the area. Please do something to manage this problem. These cats don't belong there. Thank you.</p>
1616	<p>I'm against this course of action this is a Santuario for Cats and doing so would be bad PR for you and they would be repercussions have a heart don't kill the cats bring back the Sterilization programs and all this will be averted</p>
1617	<p>The people of Viejo San Juan love this cat community and they are already cared for through a robust TNR program led by Save A Gato and supported by local residents.</p> <p>Caring for these cats is part of the local culture and destroying these cats would negatively impact that culture, so the disrespect of this plan is clear and painful. Any implication that local Puerto Ricans cannot adequately address this issue themselves is racist and patronizing. Simply trapping and killing these cats is not the answer. It is inhumane, short-sighted, and is just another example of how little the federal government cares about this island its inhabitants.</p> <p>Please consider the long-term and unintended consequences of quickly and completely altering the ecosystem of a small area. Once all of the cats are dead, how will the parks department handle the inevitable rodent infestation? Additionally, this cat community is an attraction for many tourists, so how will the parks department compensate for that loss?</p> <p>I would be remiss if I did not call out the incredible fact that in your plan document, you</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>misdirect the reader to welfare concerns for the cats, citing that they "do not have an easy life" as if we've forgotten that your plan is to literally kill them. And this plan completely fails to address a significant source of the cat population in the area, which is dumping. So what happens after the existing cat colony is killed? The problem will obviously continue once new cats are dumped, so what happens to those cats? Make no mistake that people will continue to dump animals regardless of whether there are feeding stations or caretakers in the area and your plan makes no mention of Save A Gato's future role in the area. Will they be expected to TNR these new groups of dumped cats? Will there be a NPS semi annual culling before kitten season? Puerto Rico already has a "Dead Dog Beach", and now there could be a "Dead Cat Alley" thanks to the National Park Service.</p> <p>Perhaps this once you can try a different approach that doesn't begin with simply killing everything and hoping the problem goes away, but rather with a community-based approach that benefits all those involved. If your goal is truly to improve the situation, as you claim, then simply try supporting Save A Gato and similar organizations with funds to expand and continue their TNR work. We know an MOU already exists with Save A Gato, but no support is provided. Trapping and euthanizing dozens of animals isn't cheap, so we know there is money earmarked for this plan already. Please consider redirecting these funds to support a more successful public education program to curb animal dumping and enhanced TNR efforts in the area.</p> <p>Animals welfare groups like Save A Gato move mountains on a shoestring budget, so imagine what they could do with more generous financial support. They have already done considerable groundwork, they have community support, and local knowledge. I cannot think of a better partner to engage with in this type of work. You can do better, but you have to try, and that begins with learning from others with humility and respect.</p>
1618	Estoy completamente en contra de que eliminen y maten a los Gatos de viejo San Juan. Esto es cruel e inhumano. NO A LA ELIMINACIÓN DE LOS GATOS.
1619	Please keep the cats, they are an icon to the city of San Juan. The organization Save a Gato is doing a good job attending them. The cats are loved by the citizens, visitors and tourists.
1620	Reggards, the San Juan Cats have been living with the neighborhood for years and are fed by visitors and residents of Old San Juan, they are not agresive and do not bother anyone. The Save a Gato organization provides them with medical care and sterilization through donations there are recive from diferents visitors and organizations in favor of these Cats. If you want to help redirect funds to massive sterilization, make sure they have food all the time. Why does the quickest Solution have to be the most damaging? Put yourself on this way. There are not the plague they are residents of SJ and a relief for the souls of those who come asking for them. San Juan Cats should stay where they are.
1621	Totally against the killing of cats on the Paseo del Morro in San Juan, Puerto Rico
1622	The government is trying to get rid of thousands of cats that live in Old San Juan. I believe this is wrongas organizations such as Save a Gato take care of these cats, feed them, sterilize then among other things. It would be unjustifiably cruel to harm these cats that don't bother anyone and if anything help control the vermin population in the city. Not to mention tourist usually love seeing them as they have become a staple of the city.
1623	I urge you to keep the cats, they are an icon of San Juan. We love them so much and they are needed.
1624	Let's leave the cats. Otherwise rats will domain Old San Juan in a very short time

Corr ID	Correspondence
1625	Se deben mantener los gatos en el viejo San Juan porque ya son icono en la ciudad amurallada...
1626	As a cat lover, I think its a great idea. We all love to hear a cat's purr.
1627	Keep the cats please. They are known to belonging there. The organization Save a Gato does a great job at taking care of them. The cats are loved by tourists, visitors and the citizens of Puerto Rico.
1628	Hello! What in the world is a plan to control cats reproduction when the plan is to Kill them all????? I swear you are planning on another peste plague. San Juan is a 500 year old city, you can even get rats on your toilet when you are popping, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GONNA HAPPEN IF YOU KILL CATS? RATS ARE LITERALLY GONNA TAKE OVER OF THAT OVERCROWDED FULL WITH FOOD AND RESTAURANTS place. Plus, you think killing and getting rid of their body's is gonna be cheaper than actually have them sterilized?? I want to know, I really want to, the person who came up with this evil and shitty plan. You want a bubonic plague part two, in the roads of San Juan, go ahead. CATS are there for a reason, they manage plagues since the beginning of times.
1629	The cats in San Juan are necessary, loved, and cared for. Please do not 'remove' them.
1630	I was on vacation in Puerto Rico 11/11-11/14 and on my last day I decided to visit Old San Juan. As I wandered the streets I ran into several stray cats that were beautiful and friendly. As I continued my journey I walked up a hill and into an entrance that led me to saveagato. I must say that I love what the people there are doing. It is great work that is needed. With that said, I object to any plan to eliminate the colony of cats. I think it's part of the old city and actually adds to it and can be a pleasant attraction. My hope is that the colony continues to exist, the people continue their work, and that I can visit again my next time in Old San Juan, PR.
1631	Ok now in a more relaxed tone. I think that this plan is not taking into consideration the reality of Old San Juan. This town, in the heart of the capital of Puerto Rico, was built over 500 years ago. It means that it water plumbing system is that old too. A lot of rats live in the water pipes of the city. Right now San Juan is a major turistic center, filled with arbnbs and restaurants. Also is the only port on the island where cruises make their stop. The only army taking care of the rats are the cats. Bubonic plague triggered into one of the most intense health problems of modern history because the city got rid of the cats and the rats just multiplied. Let's be mindful here. Killing animals and getting rid of their dead bodies so you don't cause more health issues can be as expensive as having them sterilized. We do need cats alive in a cite where you can see, literally, rats going up your toilet. You can be sitting calmly doing your stuff and feel a hairy unknown thing touching your butt. It would even traumatize you. Rats are an issue in San Juan and cats have historically serve to keep them in control. I humbly believe that killing cats would bring even more issues and COSTS than it would fix.
1632	The National Parks Service has a mission to preserve our wild places and the life that exists there. To me, the word "preserve" means to keep things as close as possible to how they were before the country was colonized and our ecosystems devastated by human activity. Preservation of our wildlife means keeping the ecosystem running as it naturally would with no human influence, with a food web composed of the animals meant to be in the landscape. Domestic cats are NOT part of that natural system. They are a man-made species originally domesticated on another continent. They are a prolific and fierce invasive species that has already helped drive many species to extinction, sometimes single-handedly. They are

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>reservoirs and vectors for a whole host of diseases that pose public safety risks and threats to wildlife. Toxoplasma, a feline parasite, can cause neurological impairments and long-term negative health effects for wolf felids, foxes, coyotes, raccoons, and many more. Since cats are not wild animals, they congregate in "colonies" in high density, especially when fed, making them even more susceptible to becoming a practical cesspool of harmful diseases. They decimate the populations of native small mammals, reptiles, and birds. Countless studies make it clear that cats have a horrible effect on any ecosystem they are introduced to, and that "colony management" does nothing to stop their harm or even slow their population growth. Trap-neuter-return (TNR) programs only work in physically isolated populations, and only work when a significant amount of removal happens, either by adopting out social cats or by euthanizing cats. TNR also re-abandons the cats back into an environment where they do not belong, which leads to the death and illness of wildlife, and oftentimes intense suffering for the cats. Domestic cats are not built for life in the wild. They are good hunters, leading to damage of wildlife populations, but struggle to contend with harsh elements, traffic, and other challenges that must be faced in a life outdoors. Once a cat is trapped once, they often become too wary to ever be trapped again, meaning that severely ill or injured cats can only be left alone to die an agonizing death. "Colony management" often seems like a humane solution, but feeding colonies of cats only strengthens them to allow more hunting of native animals and does nothing to help them contend with the illness and death they face in the wild. There is nothing humane about TNR.</p> <p>The only ethical solution, to both serve the mission of the National Parks Service and reduce the suffering of these cats, is to remove as many as possible from the environment. Maintaining a population of an invasive species in a National Park is the absolute antithesis of what the NPS stands for and would be a severe violation of the Service's goals and moral standing. Please take a stand for the wildlife in your park, and these suffering cats, and do not attempt a "management" plan for feral cats.</p>
1633	ESTOY A FAVOR DE QUE SE MANTENGAN LOS GATOS EN LA CIUDAD DE TOA BAJA PORQUE SON AMADOS.
1634	Estoy a favor de mantener los gatos en la ciudad de San Juan. Son amados, necesarios, bien atendidos y sería cruel si fueran removidos o eliminados. Gracias
1635	Los gatos deben mantenerse porque a los niños les encantan. Son juguetones y son un atractivo para entretenimiento de los niños y pet lovers.
1636	SAVE CATS THEY ARE SWEET THEY NEED THEIR FREEDOM
1637	Estoy a favor de que los gatos se queden en San Juan, son animales muy queridos.
1638	<p>The plan to remove the cats from Old San Juan is counterintuitive. There would always be a cat that will make it back to the streets and therefore a colony getting started. There are different organizations already supporting the effort to control the cat colonies. The process of trapping, neutering, and then releasing is costly but these organizations have been able to slowly control it with the community support and volunteers.</p> <p>Instead of killing all the cats, it would be useful to fund these organizations to be able to control the colonies to a greater extend and in a faster matter.</p> <p>A "one-time" solution for removing the cats doesn't exist, it needs funding and effort to keep the cat colonies under control.</p> <p>Consider getting support from the Turism Department, as cats marketer in the right way can bring more tourist to these areas to take pictures, take for example Tashirojima Island In Japan or Kalkan Kats, Turkey. These tourist destinations attract people every year just to see</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>the cats. There should be another option other than just killing cats.</p>
1639	<p>PLEASE END FAILED AND SERIOUSLY FLAWED TNR AND REMOVE THE CATS FROM THE NATIONAL PARK! Allowing invasive predators that spread disease to the public is not justifiable under any credible, science based grounds.</p> <p>The groups who promote sterilizing and releasing invasive species, have never successfully eliminated an overpopulation of feral cats except in an enclosed setting. A national park is for the public, not to serve the desires of special interest groups.</p> <p>Importantly, by allowing TNR at all, the Park officials forgot the original purpose behind the establishment of parks. The National Park system was created for the specific purpose to &quot;conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and... leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.&quot;</p> <p>With TNR, native birds and wildlife are being rejected for feral cats, defined by credible science as invasive species. Those same feral cats you are sustaining and maintaining in your park are prolific natural predators of the native wildlife you are charged with protecting and sustaining for future generations.</p> <p>For the sake of future generations, PLEASE be guided by science, ecology, biology, public health and set aside ideology of the cat centric groups and flawed, harmful approaches.</p> <p>https://tpwd.texas.gov/wildlife/birding/bird-city-texas/tpwdferalcatbriefingpaper.pdf</p>
1640	<p>Cats are such loving animals that if cared for, even in outdoor colonies, can be part of that neighborhood. It seems that there is a group that helps to care for these cats and also provides TNR services. Instead of taking the cats out of this area, maybe provide additional personal and donations to make sure the cats are TNR and fed. Cats do help to control the pest in cities, so consider that as a benefit. Please don't kill these cats just to please a few tourists.</p>
1641	<p>I am writing because I am against the &quot;ethical&quot; removal of the El Paseo del Morro cats in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Not only are they living beings, but they are also part of San Juan's charm. They represent Puerto Rico's history and are deeply ingrained in the country's culture. As a tourist that just visited in October, the cats in the area were one of my favorite things about Viejo San Juan. And from what I saw, other tourists shared this sentiment. I saw many people get excited when they would see the kitties. Most of the cats are sweet, and the ones that don't want to be petted simply mind their own business. They don't bother anyone. Not to mention that Save A Gato has been interminable in helping these cats for almost 20 years. I was so moved by their work & mission that I decided to adopt a cat (my first cat ever) and bring him home with me. To take their relentless efforts in reducing this colony and &quot;ethically&quot; remove these cats would be a slap in the face. A better alternative would be to take the funds of this proposal and, instead, use them to support Save A Gato's adoption and TNR endeavors. I ask that you please reconsider this heinous act and instead work with Save A Gato to find a PERMANENT solution for these sweet, homeless kitties.</p>
1642	<p>Keep the cats as they are a part of the San Juan community and it would be a shame if they were taken away</p>
1643	<p>Please keep the kitties in Old San Juan. They deserve to live and be cared for. They were one of my favorite parts when I visited!</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1644	<p>The cats who live in Old San Juan are cared for by the non-profit group Save a Gato. This organization has been feeding the cats and providing spaying and neutering for the past 20 years in order to maintain a healthy and sterile feline population.</p> <p>The cats of Old San Juan are part of responsibly managed cat colonies. They add charm to Old San Juan and are enjoyed by locals and tourists alike. Some of these cats are said to be descendants of the original cats which arrived on the ships with the first Spanish settlers, which means they may have some historic significance. In addition, the cats provide important rodent control for this area.</p> <p>The removal of these cats could be detrimental in several ways. First, the rodent population would likely increase in the absence of the cats, which would require more NPS resources to control. The increase in rodents may also negatively impact the restaurants and businesses in this area. Additionally, removing the cats would change the overall atmosphere of the area.</p> <p>These cats are part of the San Juan experience. Please do not remove them. Please allow Save a Gato to continue their work.</p>
1645	Saludos me gustaria que los gatos en las calles del Viejo San Juan se mantenga libres porque son un simbolo emblematico de lo que se ha convertido en nuestra cultura los paseos por el nuestro hermoso Viejo San Juan. Pues estas criaturas solo endulzan las veladas en familia y amistades como las palomas y otros animales.
1646	In favor to keep the cats because they are part of Viejo San Juan's environment and history. There are event sanctuaries built for them
1647	Estoy a favor de mantener y cuidar de los gatos. Todo ser vivo tiene derechos. Pueden operarlos para erradicar la propagación
1648	En contra de la injusticia con Los Gatos en San Juan
1649	Estoy a favor de que se mantengan los gastos en la ciudad capital de San Juan de Puerto Rico. Es patrimonio cultural El Castillo San Felipe del Morro, el Castillo San Cristóbal, Las Murallas del Viejo San Juan, La Fortaleza, entre otros. Son tantas bellezas que posee nuestra capital de las cuales disfrutamos y disfrutan todos los visitantes de otros lugares. Es necesario estos fondos para y conservar mantener nuestra ciudad de San Juan en óptimas condiciones.
1650	No estoy a favor de que eliminen los gatos de San Juan. Ellos son amados por los visitantes de la ciudad. La solución no es eliminarlos cuanto el gobierno permitió que esta situación siguiera, no solo en San Juan si no en todo Puerto Rico, con gatos y perros inocentes.
1651	Espero que puedan continuar ayudando esos hermosos garitos a sobrevivir 🙏
1652	The cats of Old San Juan are essential to that ecosystem, gringos on the other hand are the real plague. Imagine how many more rats and mice there would be in Old San Juan, where it not for the noble felines who roam our streets? The cats need services like spaying, neutering, tick and flea treatments, food. The cats are also colorful characters who fill our capitol city with joy and entertainment. Protect the kitties, gringos leave our city!
1653	Los gatos son amados por los visitantes son parte de la historia de San Juan
1654	Amamos por los visitantes.
1655	In favor of keeping the cats because they're an iconic part of Old San Juan.
1656	Los gatos son amados por los visitantes son parte de la historia de san juan
1657	Please consider expanding the trap-neuter-return program to additional territory in order to cover additional "colonies" that make it unmanageable currently at this park. Removing the cats by forceful methods that could lead to the death of the animals is inhumane and an exaggerated response to this issue. I have visited the park before and have not had any issues

Corr ID	Correspondence
	with the cats or the spaces we share. A more effective trap-neuter-return program can help lower the population numbers as time passes if properly established.
1658	The cats at Old San Juan are essential part of the biodiversity of this municipality. Some cats have been there longer than the Paseo del Morro and the story goes. Many people just stop by the Paseo looking for the cats, to feed, pet or take one of them. It's important to protect them, stay pawsitive!
1659	<p>Euthanasia of any of these free-range cats is completely unacceptable and disgraceful. Save A Gato has been tirelessly working for decades to keep this specific cat population safe, healthy, and regulated while doing nothing but serving your community. There is zero reason they should be interrupted in any way. If this is the definition of logic here, then you better start gathering up the homeless too!</p> <p>Further more, this cat sanctuary is a huge tourist attraction, and I can guarantee having these cats killed will no longer bring as much tourist traffic and their revenue for a few reasons.</p>
1660	Que dejen los gatos ahí
1661	Estoy de acuerdo q se mantenga los gastos de la ciudad de San Juan.
1662	<p>Option 1: TNR</p> <p>This is the most effective option. There was a lot of evidence mentioned in the meeting, and I'm sure a lot of people have provided it as well in the comments. This will prevent other cat colonies to settle, procreate, and create the same problem we have now. I believe one of the options is to, if you're going to spend money on euthanizing cats, use the money to help with TNR instead, thus helping to capture and do this procedure to more cats (for example the ones people drop there).</p> <p>Option 2: Cat Café or Sanctuary</p> <p>There are many buildings on sale in Old San Juan as well as other parts of the island. Buying a property or land and build a cat sanctuary that can be visited and be used as a tourist attraction is a great option. This also helps generate revenue.</p> <p>Option 3: Hire cleaning services</p> <p>El Morro has to be kept clean. These people who maintain the areas (or hire an external company) should be paid to clean the areas that smell the most. There are places that smell like human urine, for example, La Garita.</p> <p>There are many other countries that have cats roaming free, by doing TNR, and are part of the tourist attraction. There are many cat cafes in the most important cities in the world. Hiring people to clean the area every day, as it should be regardless of cats, is an easy solution plus provides jobs. There are better solutions than just spending money on killing these cats who are part of our culture and protect the area from insects and rats. They do not kill endemic or endangered animals nor do they bring diseases.</p> <p>If the smell is the problem, then what about the many homeless people, drunks, and dogs who use El Morro as a bathroom? El Morro is more known to smell like human urine, than that of cats. Why isn't that the focus? What would you guys do to solve that problem that won't go away by killing cats?</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1663	I find it stupid that they are doing the absolute most to get rid of them in the most cold hearted way. They are so many ways to help the cats, take them to an adoption center, treat them, train them for them to have a forever home. Killing them ain't the option. Open a coffee shop with cats little by little they would get adopted. But don't kill them.
1664	Por favor no remuevan Los Gatos de su hogar, estoy en contra de esto, ya que estos animales no tienen a donde ir plus mucha gente adora pasar por allí solo para verlos.
1665	amados por los visitantes de la ciudad, necesarios, icon de la ciudad.
1666	I am a resident of san juan and also a frequent visitor to the area in viejo san juan national park area where the cats are. i have been made aware of intentions for removal and am very saddened at this suggestion. the cats are a wonderful addition to this area and loved by those who visit. they are also fed and supported without the funds of the park service. i see zero reason to change or alter what is an amazing place of beauty with the cats being the jewels in this crown of puerto rico. please consider allowing them to stay and continue to be a source of joy for those who live and visit here. thank you for your time
1667	LOS GATITOS DEL VIEJO SAN JUAN SIENTEN IGUAL QUE TODOS LOS SERES HUMANOS! Son seres cariñosos y tiernos, inofensivos que no le hacen daño a nadie! no hay razón para remover a los gatitos del vsj de su hogar!
1668	Regarding the city cats, we need to keep these cats where they are. They are a part of the community to those who live, work and visit. They Are precious and bring joy to those who are in their presence. Instead of Working against them, let's work with them to keep these beautiful little Creatures around us. when you see them, You can't help but run to Them, hug them and play with them. They make you smile!!! Let's keep Them here with us! They are not harming anyone and therefore, we shouldn't Harm them! They are a beautiful addition to the community!
1669	<p>Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas.</p> <p>Our cats are residents of Old San Juan. Many are very loving and make this area a better place. In addition, they do a great job in controlling rat pests. They are well cared for and maintained thanks to the various entities dedicated to these cats and the residents of Old San Juan themselves. Another alternative route should be taken to help with the overpopulation problem, not choose to take their lives.</p>
1670	Please save the cats, growing up in PR they have been an essential addition to the area. They roam around and chill under trees and around the park
1671	The Cats of Paseo del Morro are part of the community, they are not a problem. Since Huracan Maria relations between Puerto Rico and the United States have been delicate to say the less. We dont need feds to come here and say they are going to kill cats. Because thats what removing means. Save a gato and San Juan community are doing a great job with our Feline friends. Lets leave this alone.
1672	I want the cats to stay in San Juan paseo la prinsesa
1673	The cats on Paseo del Morro in San Juan are sociable. They are vaccinated and sterilized and are part of the tourist attraction of San Juan. In addition, they help control mice. A neutered cat colony naturally dwindles over time. If the number of cats increases, it is due to abandonment and not due to reproduction. Removing and euthanizing cats is not the

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>"solution to the problem." That is a cruel and unnecessary action. An education plan must be implemented to raise awareness in the Society with signs, flyers and educational talks. Security cameras can be placed to prevent abandonment and Police to monitor and enforce the Law. That NPS cooperate with Save a Gato efforts as teamwork is better and more effective.</p>
1674	<p>Hello, I am writing today regarding the proposal to remove the cat colony from Viejo San Juan. As a resident of San Juan for over two years, and a resident of Puerto Rico for over five years, I find these cats to be nothing short of a delight and added attraction to the old city. Also, these cats are not cared for by the National Park Service or its funds. They are cared for by Save-A-Gato— a private non profit that provides food, shelter, sterilization, and at times, adoption services for this colony as well as others across the island. Those visiting Viejo San Juan will see that these cats are well cared for, and as such, are not a nuisance. If anything they add the benefit of keeping the local vermin population at bay. Should these cats be removed, the rat and mouse population will grow exponentially. And the prospect of a cat colony will forever be much more attractive than a rat/mouse colony. In conclusion, I would like to request that the National Park Service please take this comment, as well as others into consideration in an effort to not displace the beloved cats of Viejo San Juan. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
1675	<p>I'm writing on behalf of the cats who call Old San Juan their home. Do not go forward with the plan to remove them. They are residents same as their human neighbors. They bring a culture to the community that benefits human residents and tourists alike. You should step up efforts and funding to support TNR projects if you want to reduce the population, not move them or worse.</p>
1676	<p>My cocern is that removing and killing the cats would not resolve anything, the government may see well space that are not in use to give it to organization and have the cats there and promoted a good image for adoptation on the cats. And to tourist can see and participated on the adoption it would be a good manage to keep out the cats stray and be on a space for them. Please listen to each people cocern and don't let the cat be kills they don't deserve that kind of life.</p>
1677	<p>Son amados por los visitantes de la ciudad y son un Icon de la ciudad</p>
1678	<p>Castrar y operar los gatos dejarlos y respetar su espacio en el su hogar llamado San Juan</p>
1679	<p>Por favor mantengan a los gatos en el VSJ ya que son cuidados por la organización Save a Gato. Los vacunan, esterilizan y cuidan. No son un estorbo, son seres vivos que no tienen a dónde más ir. Por favor, no los remuevan. Son parte de la experiencia de visitar a San Juan y sería un enorme vacío que no estén presentes. Son amados y queridos por tantos, por favor no los remuevan.</p>
1680	<p>I have recently become aware of your proposed plan to remove the cats from a section of old San Juan. Many questions emerge: why is this identified as a need? Cats may indeed be killing some wildlife, they are also very effective at controlling rodent populations (a far worse disease vector), I believe why they were introduced in the first place. Do you have any plan in place for what you would do with removed cats besides euthanasia? The cats seem to be a remarkable draw for tourists, even being featured in calendars. How will this impact the local tourist economy? I have heard some stories of vociferous local dissent regarding this idea, are there any locals who asked for this to occur in the first place?</p> <p>All in all this would seem to me to be an idea with many potential drawbacks, no mater how well intended, and I am advocating against it. I myself would like to visit this city someday, and I would very much like for the cats to be there. Thank you and God Bless,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1681	Estoy a favor de mantener los gatos de San Juan por la importancia que representan para la ciudad y nuestro país. Son amados, un icono de la ciudad. Me encanta que se dé un ejemplo al mundo de que se aman y protegen. No se deben remover.
1682	Hello "If it ain't broke don't fix it". There is nothing wrong with the San Juan Cats. On the contrary, there is a very diligent organization that has been there for years: Save a Gato. Their work has been remarkable and are already an "institution " in the Old San Juan. I has been volunteering with my nephew and he is very proud of it. It give him a sense of community, that he is doing something worthy for the animals and the city. It gave him a sense of empathy and compassion for other live being. I don't think telling him you get ride of them because of no clear reason will be a good thing to say. You already know that keeping the cats helps controlling others pests and you also know that if you take them away other cats will come. Others that are not already operated. Thanks for administrate a el Morro but keep in mind that you should respect our community and idiosincrasia. Otherwise will be an act of imperialism. Thanks a lot!
1683	Espero que puedan rescatar a todos los gatitos y poder dejarlos en SJ su trabajo es muy bueno y por favor nunca paren de hacer esto.
1684	I support the proposed action to remove free-roaming domestic cats from the park.
1685	Please let the cats in their home, the city of San Juan. They are beloved and very important to the citizens. They have a statue to honor them and tourists like to see them. Do not remove them. Thank you for your attention.
1686	Hola! Estoy a favor de que los gatos de el aria de San Juan se mantengan y no sean removidos ya que son animales cariñosos y inofensivos, lo cual son queridos por los visitantes de el aria ..
1687	Estoy a favor de que se mantengan los gatos en la ciudad de San Juan por qué son amados por los visitantes de la ciudad, y son un icon de la ciudad.
1688	No need to eliminate the cats from El Morro area . They are well cared and there represent to threat to humans
1689	As a US Citizen I am not only embarrassed but outraged at the cruel and inhumane actions the Federal Government is considering taking against defenseless cats of Old San Juan, cats who were given a right to live, who have been taken care of, sterilized and vaccinated thanks to the efforts of Save a Gato. This initiative would always be opposed by animal haters, no matter what. But I always believed compassion, sendibility and respect would win always. Unfortunately, the action being considered is not surprising considering everything that is presently going on in the US, the US has gone to hell. It is not the country I thought it was, and I believe we are now seeing its true colors: racist, agresive, intolerant, cruel and violent with no respect towards any living being. I guess deep down that is who we are, and these actions totally confirm it. It's time we stop referring to the US as: that is not who we are, becuse We ARE!!!! Not offering any humane alternative like relocation is just sad....and unforgivable in my view. I think we often forget that animals came before us, and they have equal rights to this world. We are not superior to them, in fact, animals have shown me in so many instances how superior they are to us: their ability to forgive and forget no matter what pain or suffering we have inflicted on them, ability to unconditional love, ability to be happy with very little, ability to enjoy life to the fullest, compassion, exemplary caretakers, acceptance among species, we could only be so lucky and share a tiny bit of those qualities. In my opinion, they

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>are definitely in many ways superior to us. So much to learn from them but we insist in destroying them.</p> <p>I've valued my US citizenship always, until recently. Soon, if the US continues this path, this citizenship will be worth nothing!!!! No, we are not who se say we are.</p> <p>I pray that common sense, decency and compassion prevails in this instance. It is with great sadness that I now see americans, frequently ashamed and with very little hope for the future.</p>
1690	<p>Im submitting my comment to express my complete support for the organization save a gato. The so called feral cats are well taken care off and by that I mean, they all have their vaccines, are spayed or neuter and when they are sick, they provide veterinary care. I have witness first hand the amazing work this organization provide to manage the cats of old San Juan. Please consider that TNR works, if u remove the cats there is a vacuum effect which means other cats will come that are not tnr because unfortunately there is an overpopulation of stray cats and dogs in PR plus people seem to abandon the animals and save a gato end up providing the care for this innocent animals. I know there is a public concern about disease that cats can carry. Do u have statistics for this disease? when was the last case of toxoplasmosis? when was the last case of toxoplasmosis cause by old San Juan gato? Does the statistics of this diseases merit the removal and eventual killing of these animals? Because the humane removal of these cats means killing them. There are not enough resources in PR to find them homes. Please work with save a gato to find a real and humane solution. maybe moving feeding stations, or feeding certain times, put up signs telling tourist that there are cats in the area, or be like Turkey which is famous for his cats and people all over the world comment etc etc. We will be paying attention and most people of PR including myself are animal lovers, advocates that adamantly reject and oppose this proposal.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
1691	<p>Los gatos de Paseo del Morro no son realengos, sino comunitarios. Estos son alimentados y cuidados gracias a los voluntarios de Save A Gato. Save A Gato realiza la práctica del TNR (Trap, Neuter and Return) para controlar la población de gatos. Sin embargo, Save A Gato no es responsable del frecuente abandono de gatos en el Viejo San Juan, y el Plan de Manejo de Gatos del NPS, que consiste en remover los gatos del Paseo del Morro, no es la solución a esto. Al remover los gatos, se creará un vacío territorial que no permanecerá vacío, ya que en poco tiempo más gatos vendrán a ocupar ese espacio. Esto se conoce como Efecto del Vacío o Vacuum Effect. Pueden leer más sobre esto en este link: https://www.alleycat.org/resources/the-vacuum-effect-why-catch-and-kill-doesnt-work/. Esta página también menciona que, "atrapar y remover (o matar) gatos es inútil. Es un ciclo costoso y mortal que no produce beneficios a largo plazo. Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) es la única forma de estabilizar las poblaciones de gatos. Es el enfoque humano y efectivo para los gatos de la comunidad y es una política pública sólida."</p> <p>Los gatos de Paseo del Morro son víctimas de la crueldad de quienes los abandonaron y de la falta de fiscalización a la Ley 154 de Puerto Rico, la cual en el Artículo 1 establece que: "Si una persona intencionalmente, a sabiendas, descuidadamente o con negligencia criminal deja el animal en un lugar con la intención de desampararlo, ésta comete el delito de abandono de animal. El abandono de animal es un delito grave de cuarto grado, que conlleva una imposición de reclusión de entre seis (6) meses y un (1) día, y tres (3) años."</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Adicionalmente, muchos turistas visitan estos gatos por el amor que les tienen a ellos y en apoyo al labor de Save A Gato. Es por esto que actualmente, Save A Gato es #33 de 252 things to do in San Juan Zoos según Tripadvisor.</p> <p>Estoy en total DESACUERDO ante el Plan de Manejo de Gatos del NPS, y mis sugerencias son las siguientes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mayor fiscalización a la Ley 154 de Puerto Rico. 2. Apoyar a Save A Gato en su labor y promover el reclutamiento de voluntarios que los ayuden a continuar el TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return). 3. Reconstruir de manera creativa las estaciones de comida para gatos. 4. Construir catios para los gatos amigables de tal forma que los turistas puedan compartir con ellos. 5. Comprar productos que remuevan el olor a orín de gatos y hacer uso del mismo como parte de las tareas de mantenimiento alrededor del Paseo del Morro. 6. Colocar carteles alrededor de Paseo del Morro y áreas cercanas para educar tanto los turistas como puertorriqueños residentes que visiten. Los carteles deben resaltar que: los gatos son parte de nuestra comunidad y el Paseo del Morro es su hogar; enfatizar que los gatos no son realengos ya que son alimentados, esterilizados, vacunados y cuidados gracias a Save A Gato; los gatos no son una amenaza ni hacen daño. <p>Los gatos son parte de nuestra cultura puertorriqueña y son miembros de la comunidad del Viejo San Juan.</p>
1692	<p>Pot años caminé todos los sábados el paseo y nunca me molestaron los gatos. Si sacan de allí los gatos eso se va a llenar de ratas y nadie va a atreverse a caminar ese maravilloso paseo. Los van a eliminar y llegarán más o la gente los abandonará allí. No creen un nuevo problema por favor. Swan más creativos y más humanos.</p>
1693	<p>Pot años caminé todos los sábados el paseo y nunca me molestaron los gatos. Si sacan de allí los gatos eso se va a llenar de ratas y nadie va a atreverse a caminar ese maravilloso paseo. Los van a eliminar y llegarán más o la gente los abandonará allí. No creen un nuevo problema por favor. Swan más creativos y más humanos.</p>
1694	<p>Soy voluntaria de Save A Gato hacen 2 años y 9 meses, y nunca me había sentido mejor realizando una labor voluntaria hasta ahora, que haciendo lo que hago, le doy calidad de vida a los gatitos. Yo llego a San Juan y el amor que siento por cada uno de ellos es incomparable. Yo les hablo y ellos se acercan buscando ese cariño, esa caricia que los hace sentir tan bien y yo también me lo disfruto. Los gatitos de Paseo del Morro son de esa área, ahí viven, NO SON REALENGOS, SON DE LA COMUNIDAD. De verdad que sería un acto verdaderamente cruel removerlos de su hogar, sí, hogar, porque ellos son atendidos, alimentados por un grupo de compañeros voluntarios que, así como yo, realizan esa labor voluntaria con amor y entrega hacia los gatitos. Para nosotros, los voluntarios, atender a los gatitos es darle amor, calidad de vida, son nuestra terapia. Y yo sé que para muchos de los turistas también resultan un atractivo en San Juan, sino, no les darían comida, cariño y hasta adoptan. Remover a los gatitos de San Juan es un error muy grande, ya me parece ver a las</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	ratas y cucarachas llegando a ocupar su lugar y a contaminar todo lo que tocan. No nos quiten a nuestros gatitos, son nuestra terapia, somos MUCHOS los que disfrutamos de su compañía!!!
1695	<p>I wish to express my opinion regarding the removal of the cats of San Juan Puerto Rico at El Morro. Save a Gato has done a wonderful job maintaining the stray population under control and in health. Without them, I am convinced the situation would be out of control since they are the only ones who for years have been investing their time, energy and lives into the well being of these cats. No one, not even the government has proposed a well and humane thought out plan that doesn't harm the cats to manage the stray cat overpopulation and continuous abandonment.</p> <p>Many cities known to receive many travelers are known for their stray cat population. For example; Rome.</p> <p>These cats are healthy, monitored, spayed and neutered and don't represent a menace to visitors.</p> <p>If you really have a plausible solution that doesn't harm the cats, keep in mind that the problem doesn't have a short term solution. Cats keep being abandoned and arriving to the area. So, also think about the long term planning.</p>
1696	Cats have been castrated to prevent increased propagation by Save a Gato which is a non profit organization. We have to remember at the France the bubonic plague was mitigated by using cats as such is a pest control movement and history facts are the greatest lesson humans have to rely on. Please do not remove the cats of Old San Juan.
1697	In favor to keep the cats because they are a part of the Viejo San Juan experience
1698	In favor to keep the cats in Viejo San Juan because it's part of the history of the city. Spanish settlers brought the cats to control the rat population. Its their home and they are keeping the viejo san juan streets clean.
1699	In favor to keep the cats because without them the streets in Viejo San Juan would turn into the streets in New York, full of rats. They control the rat population which is a benefit for us.
1700	Los gatos son animales sumamente buenos, limpios y sensibles. Ayudan al control de plagas y roedores. No le hacen daño a nadie; muchos de ellos huyen al tener miedo cuando un ser humano se le acerca. No son un peligro para nadie.
1701	The cats of Old San Juan are as much a part of that historically rich community as the humans who inhabit it. In fact, they are even more of true autochthonous Puerto Ricans than many of the rich gentrifying colonizers taking advantage of Puerto Rico's suffering these days. The cats should be respected. They should be fed. They should be provided appropriate places to shelter from the elements. To commit an atrocity like their elimination or removal would not only be a tragedy, directly harming Old San Juan and Puerto Rico as a whole, but revealing of the utter disdain for all life currently displayed by the colonial system imposed on Puerto Rico by the United States.
1702	Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas.
1703	Please give a chance to the trap and release program. It works! I had a colony of about 20 cats in Fairfax County Virginia, now they are only six, all are fixed and fed daily by

Corr ID	Correspondence
	volunteers. Fairfax County sponsors the program. They help with the traps and surgeries se are free if you as part as a community member and participate in their program. I know it works! Do not kill the cats of Old San Juan give them s chance!!!!
1704	Por 7 años fui parte de la Comunidad de VSJ y junto a residentes/niñxs tuvimos cercanía al Proyecto Save a Gato y a los gatos del área. Estos animales merecen un trato digno como cualquier ser viviente, nada ni nadie nos otorga el derecho a terminar con la vida de un ser viviente que solo necesita amor, atención y un hogar seguro.
1705	Es bien lamentable que existan personas con una capacidad mental tan mínima y cruel. A veces se me hace imposible pensar que la humanidad tiene personas tan insensibles y con una carga tan negativa. ¿Cómo es posible que al ver unos gatos a quienes cuidan de la noche a la mañana quieran matarlos y exterminarlos. Qué ser humano tan despreciable
1706	They reason why I oppose the removal of Cats from paseo del Morro it is because that solución doesn't represent our society. For years they have cared for them despite everything and everyone putting into práctica what Gandhi once said: The greatness of a nation and it's moral progress can be judged by the way it treats it's animales. It is an immoral decision that threatens the progress of this Puerto Rico society.
1707	How is it possible that after years of these cats taking care of the rat situation in Old San Juan and after all the protection we made sure these cats were guaranteed, that this government would consider moving these cats which will surely die when moved to another location. It is scientifically proven that you can not move these animals without a bunch of other cats swooping in as soon as these cats are inhumanely done away with. This will not solve the cat problem and it is unfair and INHUMANE to take them away from their place of treatment and shelter. I am swiftly learning to hate this Pierluisi government which is so inhumane and politically corrupt!! Please leave these cats alone once and for all and recognize their importance in Puerto Rican history and the job they do diligently do controlling the rats in Old San Juan. This will surely call a curse on the area where Save a Gato now stands. Do not do it!!!
1708	Quiero expresar mi apoyo para que se mantengan los gatos en el Viejo San Juan. No estoy de acuerdo que remuevan los mismos ni mucho menos que los eutanicen. La organización Save a Gato lleva años realizando la labor de atrapar, castrar y devolver los gatos a su área y buscarles un hogar permanente. Da vergüenza que el acercamiento que realice la Asociación Federal de Parques sea con la intención de quejas ante la situación y no proporcionar los recursos y ayuda para mejorar la situación. Si realmente hay un interés por la isla y las reservas o áreas protegidas comencemos con la sensibilidad y tarea de educar a la población y apoyar económica y estratégicamente (logística y materiales de ayuda) la tarea que por muchos ha realizado Save a Gato y otras organizaciones sin fines de lucro. Unámonos a los esfuerzos por mantener los gatos en su hábitat y saludables y continuar de forma masiva el TNR para evitar la sobrepoblación. Seamos empáticos. Los gatitos en San Juan deben permanecer ahí, así que cooperen y no estorben la causa.
1709	Our cats are residents of Old San Juan. Many are very loving and make this area a better place. In addition, they do a great job in controlling rat pests. They are well cared for and maintained thanks to the various entities dedicated to these cats and the residents of Old San Juan themselves. Another alternative route should be taken to help with the overpopulation problem, not choose to take their lives.
1710	Es muy triste que quieran remover los gatos del Viejo San Juan. Otra decepción que el turismo va a pensar de nuestros gobiernos y isla que aquí no se aman y respetan los animales. Sabemos por años el turista le fascina ver la colonia de gatos.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Esos gatitos con el esfuerzo de turismo y la organización de Save aSatos mantiene esos gatitos operados vacunados y los llevan al veterinario.</p> <p>Que triste que igual esos gatitos elimina las plagas de ratones y ratas. Sabemos que tristemente igual el gobierno o municipio de San Juan con. Departamento de salud no tienen control de las plagas de estas y ratones. Pero gracias a esos gatitos creo que el viejo San Juan está controlado las plagas de ratas y ratones.</p> <p>Seamos una isla de compacion y mostremos qu aquí su amamos los animales y no se va remover esos gatitos que no le hace daño a nadie y tray turismos.</p> <p>Debemos de cambiar la forma que los estados unidos y el mundo piensa de nosotros que aquí no se aman los animales.</p> <p>Gracias</p>
1711	<p>Por favor dejen los gatitos del vsj san juan vivir en paz!!! Yo vivi en el VSJ 2 años y esos gatitos son el alma de la ciudad! Yo hasta adopte mis 2 gatos del vsj.</p> <p>Les dejo con esto:</p> <p>Durante la edad media se eliminaron millones de gatos por que la gente era ignorante en esa epoca y los asociaban con brujerías. Ya saben en que paro tal maniobra, aumento la poblacion de ratas y como consecuencia, se esparcio la peste bubonica. Los gatos son protegidos en grandes ciudades como Estambul y hasta se pueden encontrar mas ejemplos. No estoy diciendo que habra una peste bubonica en PR, pero si los exhorto a que hagan decisiones humanas y bien pensadas. No quieran exterminar los gatitos por que ahora despues de decadas les dio por querer &quot;mejorar la calidad de vida&quot; en el vsj.</p> <p>Si tanto quieren sacar los gatos, deben de fortalecer los programas de esterilizacion y de adopcion para controlarlos. (Aunque ya Save a Gato lleva haciendo un trabajo estupendo por años) No vayan a exterminar los gatos por vagancia o por falta de creatividad de como bregar con el asunto. Por que sinceramente bastante mierda tenemos que aguantar en este pais a diario.</p> <p>Espero que tomen una buena deciscion.</p>
1712	<p>Saludos,</p> <p>Por este medio expongo mi oposición total en contra de esta propuesta de remover y realizar euthanasia a los gatitos del Viejo San Juan. Personas de otros pueblos (como es mi caso), residentes del viejo San Juan y SAVE A GATO, sin tener ningún tipo de ayuda hemos cuidado de estos gatitos. Se ha hecho un excelente trabajo al alimentar, cuidar y esterilizar a toda la comunidad de gatitos. POR FAVOR NO APRUEBEN NI PROCEDAN CON LA PROPUESTA DE MATAR A ESOS GATITOS QUE SOLO NOS CUIDAN DE PLAGAS Y NOS APORTAN UN BIEN A LA SALUD EMOCIONAL DEL PAÍS. POR FAVOR NO MATEN A LOS GATOS DEL VIEJO SAN JUAN, ELOS MERECEEN MUCHO MÁS Y SOMOS MUCHOS LOS QUE ESTAMOS DISPUESTOS A HACER ESTO REALIDAD. NO APRUEBEN NI PROCEDAN, ESTARÍAN ASESINANDO ANIMALES INOCENTES.</p>
1713	LOS GATOS DEL PASEO NO SE PUEDEN REMOVER

Corr ID	Correspondence
1714	<p>Our cats are welcomed and distinguished residents of Old San Juan, whereas you, the current occupiers of our national heritage, are not. Many cats are very loving and make this area a better place. They are well cared for and maintained thanks to the various entities dedicated to these cats and the residents of Old San Juan themselves.</p> <p>Another alternative route should be taken to help with the overpopulation problem, not choose to take their lives. As the Park Service is aware, people are leaving cats at the premises. In my opinion, it looks like patrolling the area might dissuade people from doing so.</p>
1715	<p>Los gatos silvestres se han convertido en un problema para la biodiversidad nativa, endémica y migratoria, principalmente en las islas. Estos gatos han llevado a la extinción o al borde de la extinción a un sinnúmero de aves, reptiles y anfibios. Aunque pensemos que la zona del Viejo San Juan es un lugar estéril a la biodiversidad, es un lugar importante para la parada de cientos de aves migratorias que nos visitan o están de paso durante la migración otoño-invierno y la de primavera. En mi caso, soy observador de aves y he visto como estos gatos ferales persiguen, lastiman o matan las aves que visitan o habitan por el Paseo del Morro. Yo como visitante frecuente, considero que la propuesta del NPS abre una oportunidad para controlar la población de estos gatos que suprimen la biodiversidad y los ecosistemas.</p> <p>Adjunto algunos enlaces con información suplementaria:</p> <p>https://abcbirds.org/program/cats-indoors/cats-and-birds/ https://www.audubon.org/news/feral-cat-predation-birds-costs-billions-dollars-year</p> <p>Por último, le incluyo los enlaces de los hotspots en la plataforma eBird con las observaciones de las aves avistadas en el VSJ.</p> <p>https://ebird.org/hotspot/L9781411?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec https://ebird.org/hotspot/L294049?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec https://ebird.org/hotspot/L853622?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec</p>
1716	<p>In favor of keeping cats in Viejo San Juan. They help to control the rodent population.</p>
1717	<p>Por favor no maten a esos gatitos, hay personas que cuidan de ellos. Les dan comida y tienen hasta caja de arena para poder hacer sus necesidades. Están muy bien cuidados y más no le hacen daño a nadie ni molestan. Son criaturas llenas de mucho cariño y hermosas sobre todo. Me parece muy injusto que quieran hacer esto cuando esos gatos no tienen hogar y que mejor sitio para ellos que el viejo San Juan donde cuidan de ellos.</p>
1718	<p>Saludos cordiales,</p> <p>Representó una entidad sin fines de lucro, que investiga maltrato a los animales, representando a la Ley 154, ley para el Bienestar y Protección de los animales. No vemos razonable, el exterminio de Los Gatos en el Viejo San Juan. Si se llevan a Los Gatos, la gente volverá a llevar más. En estos momentos, Los Gatos son esterilizados y vacunados. La entidad SAve a Gato, los ha cuidado por años. Su labor es extraordinaria y entendemos que aquí en PR, Los Gatos no los adoptan. Por ende, es mejor esterilizar y soltar. Muchas personas ayudan alimentar animales en todo PR, porque mejor buscan ayuda para los animales que necesitan un hogar permanente. la solución no es matar. La solución es esterilización y adopción</p> <p>No es justo para la entidad, que lleva años, alimentando y cuidando a Los Gatos de San Juan, a pulmón, con sus propio esfuerzo, de la nada, destruyan su hermoso trabajo.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Lo ideal es, soluciones reales, no matar animales. Siempre habrá personas que les gusten los animales, los perros o gatos, pero también, tenemos personas que no les gusta, pero no los maltratan. También tenemos personas que lo que le hacen daño a todo ser viviente. Si llevan tanto tiempo allí y por un grupito que odia años gatos, surge la idea de sacarlos. Debe haber otra solución mucho más certera que eliminar a Los Gatos de San Juan. Tenemos ejemplos de países como correo que tienen hasta restaurantes con gatos. En Aoshima, Japón, una isla que la atracción turística son los ciento veinte gatos que viven allí. En Turquía son amados, ellos indican que son animales puros.</p> <p>Si eliminan Los Gatos, nuestro turismo se verá afectada por la mala imagen de haber sacado a todos Los Gatos, mejor dicho, matado y nos veremos mal para todos los turistas que aman a los animales y les tengo que informar, que son millones de personas que aman a Los Gatos. No estamos de acuerdo por la eliminación de Gatos en San Juan. Mejor cierren el zoológico que allí si están sufriendo los animales.</p>
1719	<p>A quién pueda interesar:</p> <p>Le escribo mediante este mensaje por la falta de humanidad que el NPS está emitiendo en contra de los gatos de mi querido Viejo San Juan. Desde el 2004 la entidad sin fines de lucro Save a Gato a funcionado como TNR y familia de los gatos que habitan en el VSJ. Haciéndose responsables de alimentar, cuidar, esterilizar y darle amor a los gatos mediante de donaciones que reciben constantemente. Los felinos son mascotas domésticas que por naturaleza son cazadores. Por años el VSJ ha tenido estos felinos como ayuda para controlar las plagas de ratas que hay en el VSJ evitando enfermedades como leptospirosis. Estos felinos esperan todas las mañanas y tardes para ser alimentados por Save a Gato, incluso algunos de ellos responden al llamado de los voluntarios. Me destroza el corazón pensar que NPS tenga un "plan" de eliminar los gatos sin brindar dato alguno de cómo los eliminarán. Por lo que se puede deducir que los mismos pudieran ser matados. Estos animales de la gran creación de Dios son indefensos es por eso que escribo a nombre de ellos. Les suplico que no remuevan a estos felinos es un acto inhumano disponer de ellos matándolos, ellos no decidieron venir al mundo es por que está gran fundación se ha hecho cargo de ellos. Por favor les suplico no disponer de ellos mejor lleven a la mesas otras alternativas que sean viables tanto para NPS y Save a Gato.</p> <p>De tener alguna duda o pregunta quedo a su disposición</p> <p>Gracias</p>
1720	<p>In favor to keep cats because they are part of the history of Viejo San Juan. They have been there since the Spanish arrived</p>
1721	<p>Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas.</p>
1722	<p>In favor to keep cats because they control the rat population and they aren't feral. Some of the cats even come up to you and are friendly</p>
1723	<p>In favor of keeping the cats in Viejo san juan because they are friendly and control pest problems.</p>
1724	<p>Los Gatos llevan mucho tiempo ahí. Ese es su hábitat. Si se sacan , las ratas se van a multiplicar... trayendo mas problemas q Los Gatos</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1725	In favor of keeping the cats in Viejo San Juan because they are friendly
1726	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I beg for the safety of this cats. They belong to the Old San Juan and also they are something that tourist want to see in our capital city. They enjoy them and the cats too. They are not bad cats and some entities help to vaccinate every cat. They are sterilized and vaccinated with donations from people, the government does not help them. Also, they gave them food and water. Please, it can be another way to help them to control this population of cats. Let them an opportunity and funds to sterilize the cats. They can't die.</p>
1727	<p>Me opongo al plan de exterminio (manejo es lo que hace Save A Gato ahora, lo que se propone es exterminarlos) de los gatos de Viejo San Juan. Entiendo que si hay quejas válidas de parte de sectores de la comunidad, las mismas deben ser atendidas y no dudo que Save a Gato y otros grupos están en la mejor disposición de atenderlas. Ahora bien, si estas quejas vienen de las personas que están especulando con las propiedades del Viejo San Juan, les indico que, al igual que la "Administración de Parques Nacionales"; está temporalmente y gracias a la situación colonial de Puerto Rico, administrando estas áreas que pertenecen al pueblo de Puerto Rico, también esos especuladores están solo temporeramente aprovechando la situación para su lucro, pero no para siempre.</p> <p>Como visitante frecuente del Viejo San Juan disfruto de la presencia de los gatos y como conocedor del trabajo voluntario de Save a Gato, exijo que cualquier plan de manejo (no de exterminio) sea acordado con la organización.</p> <p>I oppose the extermination plan (management is what Save A Gato does now, what is proposed is to exterminate them) of the cats of Old San Juan. I understand that if there are valid complaints from sectors of the community, they must be addressed and I have no doubt that Save a Gato and other groups are in the best position to attend to them. Now, if these complaints come from the people who are speculating with the properties of Old San Juan, I indicate that, like the "National Parks Administration" is temporarily and thanks to the colonial situation of Puerto Rico, administering these areas who belong to the people of Puerto Rico, those speculators are also only temporarily taking advantage of the situation for their profit, but not forever.</p> <p>As a frequent visitor to Old San Juan, I enjoy the presence of the cats and as I know the volunteer work of Save a Gato, I demand that any management plan (not extermination) be agreed with the organization.</p>
1728	<p>The cats of Old San Juan are world famous. They are a part of our history and our culture. Eliminating them will cause a worldwide outrage. They deserve to be treated with dignity and kindness.</p> <p>Please don't harm them or remove them. Save a Gato and Puerto Rico's residents will do anything you want us to do to be able to keep them.</p> <p>Please don't remove our beloved cats.</p>
1729	<p>The kittens should not be removed, they are no harm to anyone, if anything, it adds to the experience of going to El Viejo San Juan. It's their habitat so why whould you take it away from them? Please leave the kittens alone.</p> <p>//</p> <p>Los gatitos no deben ser removidos, no le hacen daño a nadie. Al contrario, son parte de la</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>experiencia de ir al Viejo San Juan. Es su hábitat, así que por qué la necesidad de removerlos? Por favor, dejen a los gatitos quietos.</p>
1730	<p>As a resident (and tax payer) of Old San Juan, I find this despicable the federal government is going to use tax payer money to potentially exterminate / kill the cats in my neighborhood. This money should go to the safe trapping and neuter/spay program for these animals with the hope to rehome them. I do not know if the government provides funding to Save A Gato or not. But this money should go there before enacting this plan of mass death. No one should be fooled to think these cats are going to be collected and put somewhere else safe on the island...</p> <p>I walk the Paseo multiple times per week (when it is actually open...) and have never seen dead birds or other animals along the route. Either the US Government is that good at cleaning up dead animals each day or the statement the cats are indiscriminately killing everything is grossly overstated. Regarding the smell in the area, I'd say the food trucks and indiscriminate trash in the throughout Old San Juan provide much worse impact on my senses than anything else described in this bulletin.</p> <p>Also, it should be illegal for people to abandon un-neutered / un-spayed kittens in this area going forward. Enforce that law. Not this. This proposal is simply gross and shameful and I am completely against such initiatives, particularly when it's using my taxes to do so.</p>
1731	<p>Es innecesario el querer deshacerse de los gatos del VSJ. Ayudan a que no veamos ratas ni ratones mientras caminamos y nos deleitamos con la vista. Además, reflejaría alta ignorancia y falta de consideración hacia todo el pueblo de Puerto Rico. Ya que, una vez más, quieren darle cara a lo que le &quot;conviene&quot;. Es mucho mejor que estos servicios sean utilizados para la alta que hay de pitones en Naranjito, entre otros pueblos.</p>
1732	<p>My family lives in Ponce, Puerto Rico, so we don't visit the Old San Juan including el Paseo del Morro that frequently, but last Friday on November 19th we went there in a school trip. For me it was beautiful being able to see these cats, peacefully coexisting with people and nature in a place that is so full of people, noises, and life. Throughout our tour, many things bother me such as places that were vandalize with grafity, smell of human urine, the smell of birds and birds poop, but not even once did I get cat smell or felt like cats were a problem. In my opinion removing these cats would only bring pest problems such as mice and other types of invasive species that would affect the quality of life and the health of the city. I think Save a Gato is doing an excellent job with its TNR program and the National Park Service should really just continue working hand by hand and even support this organization and everything they do for the cat population of this area.</p>
1733	<p>The NPS proposal is distressing on several levels. These people have dedicated their time, money, resources, and hearts to these helpless cats. The cats pose no threat to anyone or anything. And the colony size is controlled since all of them have been spayed or neutered. In a few short years sadly this colony will not exist due to natural attrition.</p> <p>Why impose this draconian measure now that will only cause unnecessary suffering for those involved? The cats actually serve a very good purpose by controlling any vermin issues. Rome has a similar situation at the archeological site of Ceasar's assassination. The cat population there has become very famous and actually brings tourists to the site. Why not make the situation in San Juan something positive that will aid in bringing tourists to the fort? It can definitely be a financial benefit by offering items for sale inspired by the cats like calendars, etc. I implore you to reconsider and turn this into a positive that will benefit the</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	NPS, the tourist, the self sacrificing volunteers, and the beautiful feline residents. Respectfully,
1734	Los Gatos no dañan a nadie. Ayudan al control de ratones. El problema real es que las personas siguen abandonando los gatos sin esterilizar. Sujero le coloquen microchips a Los Gatos, recoger solo los que no están operados. Se le debe notificar mediante correo postal a todos los residentes del viejo San Juan, para evitar que se lleven un gato con dueño por error. A veces hay residentes que dejan salir los gatos a fuera de la casa.
1735	Cats keep a low population of animals that can carry diseases like rats and pigeons. They also have the right to live along the streets just like any other animal, especially since people don't adopt them and shelters don't have the space to take them in. People from the area also like the cats and they do not bother anyone. Please leave them be.
1736	Los Gatos son necesarios en San Juan hay muchos ratones 🐭 y son muy necesarios para que no ocurra una peste bubónica. Ellos a caban con todo tipo de sabandijas. Después que estén operados son de mucha ayuda. Recuerdo una vez que salubridad se metió en la mayorquina por las ratas. Y en muchos negocios porque habían sacado a Los Gatos. En los túneles del morro hay muchas ratas y Los Gatos son lo que tienen controlado el medio ambiente.
1737	No se deberían remover los gatitos del area del viejo san juan porque ese es su hogar. Los gatos no molestan a nadie, son cariñosos. Es cierto que hay muchos, pero ese es su hogar. No me gustaría que los removieran o reubicaran de allí.
1738	Los países desarrollados manejan las colonias de gatos de manera responsable y organizada. Deberíamos seguir este ejemplo ya que los gatos no representan ningún tipo de amenaza. Eliminarlos sería ser retrógrados en comparación. La información que comparten parece unilateral en contra de los gatos. No mencionan el problema de ratas que había previo a la llegada de los gatos y como esto si representaría un mayor riesgo para la salud del ser humano al ser portadores de la leptospirosis. La presencia de los gatos (con los controles adecuados) es beneficiosa para el area y las personas en la misma.
1739	Although I don't live there, I have visited San Juan, and have met the amazing staff of Save a Gato. We found the population of cats incredibly charming and they were one of the things we talked about most after our visit. I had no idea they were considered a problem in any way, and am sorry to hear there was a policy in consideration to remove one of the most unique animal populations I've seen.
1740	This is not right. Leave the cats alone and let them live.
1741	Why this proposed policy change after decades? What prompted this really? -Is there an explosion in the cat population? No -Was there a threat to the inhabitants or visitors? No - Did something change or break down in the care of the cats from save a gato? No It looks like Perhaps someone has come into a decision making role at the NPS who simply dislikes cats. How is that a justification for euthanizing a loving and harmless historic cat colony. That's just bad policy. The cats are causing no harm. They are controlling pest populations. They are all neutered. Tourists love them. There is no reason to harm them. Please leave them alone.
1742	Encuentro que va en contra de la moral remover los gatos en el Viejo San Juan, un lugar que ha sido acogedor para ellos por años y reconocido mundialmente por ellos en cierta parte.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Antes de que los gatos estuvieran, se veían ratones grandes por toda la área, algo que ya no se ve porque los gatos son sus depredadores.
1743	Esos gatitos no dañan a nadie. Incluso he escuchado de turistas que disfrutaban de su compañía. Estoy totalmente en contra de removerlos.
1744	salven los gatitos
1745	I don't think you should kill these animals. They have been there for ages. I have lived out of Puerto Rico for 20 yrs but I remember several feral cat populations in that same area of El Morro since the mid 90's. I have been several times to Old San Juan recently and I have visited Save A Gato, I'm amazed how much they do for these animals. They absolutely care for these animals. I don't see any point to killing these peaceful animals who obviously live in harmony with people.
1746	<p>I must say when hearing of this news I was and continue to be deeply disturbed. I have visited the Morro and el Viejo San Juan many times and never once have I thought of or felt that these beautiful, friendly and welcoming cats as an "INVASIVE SPECIES" this is absurd and absolutely ridiculous. I live in New York City and I can tell you what an Invasive species is— disgusting and aggressive RATS. These beautiful cats are serving the community by eliminating this issue. They should be revered and treated with dignity and respect. I am also very well aware that the Save a Gato foundation does a public service by feeding the cats, trapping- neutering, vaccinating and when possible looking for loving homes for adoptable cats. These are not just a feral and unattended community of cats but, but a well kept healthy and loving part of the community and a joy to visit every time I visit Puerto Rico.</p> <p>Please leave them alone, Puerto Rico has larger problems to tend to. This is absolutely RIDICULOUS and INHUMANE.</p>
1747	<p>It is outrageous to think that removing the population of cats in old San Juan is a good option. What should be sought, instead of sacrificing living things, is making a fund for the spaying of stray cats in order to control and monitor the population. The government is overlooking how beneficial these are for the community preventing worse harms like infestation of rats and such.</p> <p>Educate yourselves: https://www.adoptananimalkits.com/advocate/companion-animals/params/post/1281181/feral-cats-are-an-important-part-of-the-environment https://www.catster.com/lifestyle/feral-cats-wildlife-australian-study</p>
1748	Someto este comentario para oponerme enérgicamente al "Plan de Manejo de Gatos Realengos" del Servicio de Parques Nacionales del Departamento del Interior de Estados Unidos. Remover a los gatos del Paseo del Morro es innecesario, cruel, inhumano y tendría un efecto detrimental en el disfrute de la zona por parte de residentes, visitantes y turistas. Los gatos son parte del Viejo San Juan y del Paseo del Morro. Yo visito esa zona varias veces al mes para caminar, distraerme y despejarme y, en gran parte, precisamente para ver a los gatitos. Residentes, visitantes y hasta turistas van por los gatitos, gozan de su presencia y hasta acarician a aquellos que se dejan tocar. Es parte del atractivo de la zona y ni el Viejo San Juan ni el Paseo del Morro sería lo mismo sin ellos. Distinto a lo que plantea el "Plan", los gatos no son un "asunto" que hay que atender. Más allá del olor a gato que pueda haber en un tramo del paseo (no todo el paseo), los gatos no molestan y son parte del paisaje. (Peor huelen muchas veces las calles del Viejo San Juan, a causa de los lixiviados que generan la basura y el estacionamiento de la Plaza del Quinto Centenario con su fuerte olor a orin.) Conozco a muchas personas que frecuentan ese Paseo y

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>los gatos no presentan un impedimento ni obstáculo. En fin, que no molestan a nadie y nadie se está quejando por ellos. Si hubiera algún problema de aumento de población, se puede trabajar con Save a Gato que hace un trabajo EXCELENTE por los gatitos de la zona y les consigue hogar a muchos de ellos.</p> <p>Además, el "Plan de Manejo de Gatos Realengos" es sumamente escueto al describir el supuesto problema y ofrecer una solución. Los gatos NO son un "problema de estorbo" y no deterioran la experiencia de los vistantes. Por el contrario, ayudan a controlar otras potenciales plagas de roedores. Además, es absurdo plantear que "los gatos realengos y las estaciones de alimentación no son consistentes con el paisaje cultural". Las estaciones de alimentación no molestan a nadie y muchas de ellas ni se ven. Y, como dije, los gatitos ya son parte del paisaje y del atractivo de pasar por el Paseo. No se ha ofrecido información sobre problemas de enfermedades, bacterias ni parásitos por culpa de los gatos. Tampoco sobre personas que hayan sido atacadas por los gatos. Parecería que se busca atender un problema que no existe o que, de existir, es para muy pocos. En mi vida he visto una rata en el Paseo del Morro.</p> <p>Además de carecer de fundamentos que la justifiquen, la Acción Propuesta por la agencia es escueta, deja interrogantes importantes y es cruel e inhumana. El Servicio Nacional de Parques contrataría a una "agencia de remoción" que se supone use "su mejor criterio profesional para gestionar la captura y el retiro humanitario de los gatos"; "¿Su mejor criterio"? "¿el retiro humanitario"? ¿Qué se debe entender por esto? En ningún lugar del Plan se establece con seguridad que los gatos no serán eutanizados o llevados a refugios donde, eventualmente, serían eutanizados.</p> <p>Como deben saber ya, el anuncio de este plan causó gran indignación en Puerto Rico. La prensa del país y hasta de medios de Estados Unidos ha reseñado la oposición al Plan y la preocupación de muchos residentes y visitantes con lo que pueda ocurrir con los gatitos. La Acción Propuesta es insólita e innecesaria y espero que el Servicio Nacional de Parques reconsidere su postura y abandone el "Plan de Manejo de Gatos Realengos" por el bien de los gatitos y de todos y todas las que visitamos el Paseo del Morro.</p>
1749	Me encantan Los Gatos libres por la ciudad fomentan el amor a los visitantes y se ve el trabajo unido del pueblo al cuidarlos y mantenerlos bien.
1750	Me opongo rotundamente que se lleve a cabo la matanza de estos gatos. Muchos de los residentes les dan comida y los cuidan ya que son parte de la comunidad en el VSJ. No hacen daño a nadie u seria inhumano que los pongan a dormir sin ningun tipo de consideracion por estas criaturas inocentes.
1751	I want to express that saving the lives of animals is a very important gesture. Animals are beings of light, they accompany us in difficult times and they are our life companions. A cat can save a person, they are beings that when they cling to someone tend to be very affectionate and when you need them the most he will be by your side. In addition, they are very quiet species that help us maintain clean areas of rodents that can contaminate many places. A cat can save someone's life, many people need a pet in their lives to give them light.
1752	We must save the cats in old San Juan because they're totally in defenseless and don't make no harm to anyone. Most of them are even vaccinated. I can see one good reason to get rid of them. As a Boricua these cats are part of our culture and it would be a tragedy if they're gone.
1753	With all the issues that plague Puerto Rico you choose to hurt animals. We were put on this earth to be the caretakers of the earth and it's animals, who were here

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>before us. They do more good than bad. Keeping pests away and controlled. What's your purpose on hurting them? How about you leave them alone and focus on more important problems.</p> <p>There are people who care for them, treat their illnesses and feed them. You don't have to do anything but leave them alone. Please leave them be and refocus your attention where it's needed, like getting the electric grid fixed. People in third world countries have a better electric grid than PR, and it's a US territory. Get it together and prioritize your issues.</p>
1754	I object to the proposal, I feel the work that is being done to rehabilitate and allow these cats to live a healthy and safe life, as well as, reach their potential to be rehomed, is such a gift. I hope you'll consider the importance of rescue, rehabilitation and animal advocacy, where groups like this are not very prevalent, and support innocent animals who don't have a voice.
1755	ME OPONGO A LA REMOCIÓN DE GATOS DEL PASEO DE LA PRINCESA EN VIEJO SAN JUAN!
1756	It makes me so happy when I get to visit San Juan and see the cats around the streets. I live in PR, so I've visited the area many times and have never heard anyone complain or had a negative reaction to them. People actually consider it a tourist attraction. Save a Gato has been doing an incredible job. Thanks to them, the majority of cats are sterilized and look very healthy and clean. Please, do not remove the cats. I know the organization is working tirelessly so that every single cat is healthy and can find their forever home, but until then, we should be putting efforts to teach kids and adults that an animal is a commitment, another family member, and that they have to respect them and care for them. The abandonment rates in PR are through the roof. Animals are living, breathing, and feeling beings like any of us. Please, put the efforts on educating and punishing the people who actually abandon them and not on removing these innocent cats who didn't decide to be homeless.
1757	Don't kill the cats!! This is a bad plan.
1758	DEJEN LOS GATITOS !!! GRINGO GO FUCKING HOME
1759	<p>In English or Spanish, the verb &quot;to eliminate&quot; when referencing animals is far too strong and conveys a sense of killing or euthenizing animals; how is the NPS defining their terminology of &quot;eliminating&quot; feral cats? Physically moving them off-site or euthenizing? Sadly, this remains unclear.</p> <p>The cats are not to blame. Save A Gato has been diligently supporting the cats of Old San Juan for over a decade. NPS claims they haven't been holding their end of the bargain but no one has shared the original MOU. As for the number of cats growing, Save A Gato has been acting as a shelter for abandoned or relinquished animals; they are not to blame, but rather to be praised for their sterilization, medical and adoption efforts. VSJ and its visitors like other countries embrace their presence. Are you seeking to rid of iguanas along El Paseo who are also considered invasive? What have NPS' tactics been for other &quot;invasive&quot; feral cats other parts of the US?</p> <p>After the inevitable Environmental Impact Study, how much time will we have to help the cats that NPS is clearly trying to inch towards? The animal advocates will rally to herd the cats to save their lives. I understand NPS can't give SAG resources but by all means do not threaten to &quot;eliminate&quot; them after decades if not centuries of being here. With your powers, connect SAG to shelters in the US to create a pipeline for adoptions at minimum</p>
1760	LOS GATOS SE QUEDAN!

Corr ID	Correspondence
1761	<p>Greetings from Jacksonville, Florida.</p> <p>I would like to express support in favor of no action in the removal of free ranging cats in The Paseo. These cats cause no harm to anyone. I myself enjoy returning to my Puerto Rico just to spend time with free ranging cats after volunteering at SAG.</p> <p>The Save A Gato team are wonderful cat caring people. They should be provided with another opportunity to address this issue accordingly. I am sure it will take a considerable amount of funds to eliminate the cats. Funds that should be used elsewhere. Besides, cats will eventually appear again shortly after your finalization of removal. Please consider in favor of no action. These beautiful cats make San Juan a happier place to visit.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
1762	<p>Cats are well taken care of (food, sterilized, etc.). They are part of the ecosystem. Don't allow strangers to move into town and destroy the community.</p>
1763	<p>Me uno a la lucha. Somos las voces de esos hermosos seres que no pueden defenderse. No es justo que los quieran sacar, y peor aun, eliminar como si fuesen basura. Ellos no tienen culpa que la gente sin escrúpulos y sin corazón los hayan abandonado. ¿Acaso les gustaría a ellos que cuando esten enfermos o viejos los tiren a la calle a morir? Save a Gato como tantas organizaciones estan haciendo todo lo que pueden sin los recursos del gobierno. Existen leyes pero no ayudan y luego se quejan si hay sobrepoblación, pero, si dieran apoyo para que esas instituciones puedan seguir rescatando y cuidando hasta conseguirles hogar, seria una mejor opción. Ya quisiera yo poder tener un lugar que sirviera de foster en lo que los adoptan. Tenemos que crear consciencia comenzando con los niños. Educandolos a respetar y cuidar a los animales para que no traten con crueldad a esos seres tan especiales que son los gatos. Merecen una vida digna. Ellos no hacen daño, al contrario, ayudan con los roedores, ¿o acaso prefieren que tengamos una invasión de ratas? Se que hay personas que no les gustan, pero no por eso hay que extinguirlos. ¡Esa NO es la solución!</p>
1764	<p>We are not agree with your idea of killing the cats. In old San Juan we have a non profit organization that rescue and sterilized all the cat in old San Juan and set them free. They are so happy and controlled the infection of all the rats in the streets. Please leave them life free and happy.</p>
1765	<p>Relocating or eliminating cat colonies is not the solution to overpopulation in Old San Juan. Cat populations are part of urban areas everywhere and the only real solution to overpopulation is TNR, which multiple volunteers and Save a Gato have been doing for many years. The reality is that PR has national problem with abandoned animals and relocating them is a short term solution. If all cats are removed, eventually people will be abandoning individuals and the overpopulation will begin again. Education campaigns and accesible veterinary services (e.g. massive sterilization events) are a long term solution. National Parks should be part of these types of educational campaigns and should demonstrate their support by funding massive TNR efforts.</p>
1766	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I believe the cats are an integral piece of Old San Juan and the NPS should find a way to make both parties happy. There are very few places in PR where cats are treated as highly as they are in OSJ. They are fed and looked after and even a shelter operates there giving these animals a second chance they wouldn't have had. As a resident, they are not very bothersome and intrusive with restaurants or dissuading locals and tourists away from the beauty of OSJ. In fact, I believe they add to the whole OSJ experience in a positive way.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>If anyone has the heart to help these friendly creatures who have found a home in OSJ over the years then please understand you can solve the issue of areas that smell due to the cats defecating by hiring hourly workers to clean the surrounding areas where they are normally using. This island has a lot of dedicated folks to help out with TNR (trap neuter release) that give their all to help control the issue as well as care for them.</p> <p>Closing comments: Don't turn into a gringo. You hate the gringos that are displacing Puerto Ricans in San Juan, dorado, and other areas. Don't displace these cats from their home. Otherwise, you are no better than the gringos. #GatoStayHome</p>
1767	<p>The only humane method of controlling community cat populations is through Trap-Neuter-Return programs and low-cost access to spay/neuter services. The Save A Gato organization has spent 2 decades caring for the cats of Old San Juan with very limited resources. Unfortunately, because there is no easy access to low-cost spay/neuter services in the surrounding communities, the pet cats owned by local population breed in an uncontrolled manner. Many of these cats either find their way to Old San Juan when searching for food, or they are dumped there by irresponsible pet owners. Instead of pursuing a catch-kill removal program, the National Park Service should assist Save A Gato in outreach to the surrounding community to discourage abandonment of pet cats and expand access to spay/neuter services in order to decrease the number of unwanted cats that are bred in the surrounding community. This would allow the cat population in Old San Juan to naturally decrease.</p>
1768	<p>A quien pueda interesar,</p> <p>Somos una pareja que reside en el Viejo San Juan. Pasamos frecuentemente por el Paseo del Morro. Parte de ese paseo es apreciar la colonia de gatos que habita en esta área. Así que, tenemos mucho malestar sobre el plan de manejo de gatos realengos (para nosotros son gatos comunitarios). Entendemos que el plan busca disminuir, y en ultima instancia eliminar, esa colonia de gatos.</p> <p>La acción propuesta de parte del Servicio Nacional de Parques (SNP) para el control de gatos comunitarios es retirar humanitariamente a los gatos. Hay mucha desconfianza en cómo las compañía manejan el recogido de animales en Puerto Rico. Noticias como https://www.primerahora.com/noticias/puerto-rico/notas/denuncian-matanza-de-perros-en-barceloneta/ da a entender que aunque se contrate para hacer un retiro humanitario, en realidad puede resultar en un trato cruel.</p> <p>Según el SNP, el programa de Captura-Esterilización-Retorno (CER) que ha implementado Save a Gato no esta funcionando. Sin embargo, el censo de la colonia de gatos indica que su población fue de 150 gatos para el 2005 a 200 gatos para el 2021. Aunque por años el gobierno federal le ha recortado recursos a Save A Gato y la colonia de gatos es abierta, esos números dan a entender que han hecho buen trabajo. El trabajo sería más eficiente si se le dedica mayores cantidades de recursos al manejo. Si NSP viera la colonia de gatos como parte del parque, en vez de un problema, el NSP podría encargarse de proveer recursos para:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * instalar y mantener cámaras de seguridad en el área. Esto puede ayudar a identificar a cualquier persona que abandone gatos en la colonia. Además de que provee seguridad a las personas que utilizan el paseo. * Mejorar la iluminación del área. Esto debe de ir atado a las cámaras de seguridad. Ayuda a identificar personas ademas de proveer seguridad a los ciudadanos que utilizan el paseo. * Equipo y materiales que ayuden a desinfectar y eliminar las heces y malos olores que pueden haber en ciertos tramos del paseo.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Vacunación, esterilización y monitoreo de los gatos. * Adopción * Hacer campaña ciudadana sobre el manejo de colonia de gatos y CER. * Promociones que informen al ciudadano que es delito abandonar gatos aunque sea en una colonia. Estos delitos son penalizados con multas/orden de detención. * Personal que se encargue de emitir multas/ radicar cargos por abandono/maltrato de animales. <p>Por otro lado, el trabajo que realiza Save a Gato de vacunar a los gatos previene que hayan enfermedades regadas entre la comunidad de gatos. Tampoco conocemos casos donde los gatos hayan contagiado a humanos con alguna enfermedad. De haber el caso, se debería de usar como parte de la campaña para promover la importancia de CER tanto en el paseo como en Puerto Rico.</p> <p>Como vecinos que frecuentamos el paseo del Morro, no sentimos ningún tipo de amenaza de parte de los gatos. Ellos no invaden nuestro espacio, ni son agresivos. Incluso, algunos hasta buscan cariños.</p> <p>Aunque no tenemos datos sobre el impacto ambiental que tiene el mantener la colonia de gatos en el paseo, sabemos que ese paseo carece de roedores que SI propagan enfermedades.</p> <p>Por último pero no menos importante, los gatos del paseo del morro son parte de la comunidad del Viejo San Juan. Es consistente el relato entre vecinos sobre cómo esa colonia de gatos existía incluso antes que el mismo paseo. Bisabuelos que se aventuraban por las rocas a alimentar a los gatos que residían allí. Esas historias cuentan como parte de la cultura de un patrimonio nacional. Es hora de que el gobierno federal trate a esos gatos como lo que son: parte de la comunidad. No un problema.</p>
1769	<p>The cats surrounding the San Juan National Historic Site (herein after &quot;SJNHS&quot;) cannot be the victims of a bigger problem happening in the island, and one that has been constantly neglected by the local authorities: pet abandonment. While it is important to acknowledge that the furry little living beings in the Old San Juan (herein after &quot;OSJ&quot;) has become an attraction for local and international tourists, the key factor to remember here is that the cats are the victims of the ruthless humans that have abandoned them there. People will continue to drop cats in OSJ should the local authorities do not enforce the Animal Protection and Welfare Act (Ley Num. 154-2008) and regardless of the plan NPS might implement. In order to avoid a bigger proliferation of cats due to the ruthless humans that dump these creatures that make great companionship, the Save A Gato NGO Project is the most humanitarian and preventive solution available. According to Schmidt et al, Trap-Neuter-Release (herein after &quot;TNR&quot;) requires a lower treatment effort than euthanasia, but immigration [abandonment] should be controlled to be effective (See https://wichitaferal.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Evaluation-of-euthanasia-and-trap-neuter-return-TNR-programs-in-managing-free-roaming-cat-populations.pdf). In addition, TNR is a solution used in several Florida counties; however, as Hostetler et al states, for TNR to be effective, adoption campaigns should be enforced (See https://journals.flvc.org/edis/article/download/120381/120128/). The initiative to start TNR programs and create adoption campaigns has allowed the creation of parks such as the Parque de los Gatos Kennedy and Gatos Parque Castilla, both located in Lima, Peru. These parks have ongoing adoption campaigns, provide quality of life to cats and celebrate fairs, whether about books or small businesses, that attract thousands of people. This would benefit the</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>SJNHS of a higher influx of visitors.</p> <p>As a citizen of Puerto Rico and one who has proudly serviced the federal government from the beginning of my professional trajectory, I plead the NPS to reconsider any removal efforts that do not involve TNR and adoption campaigns and to create a coalition with the state and the City of San Juan authorities to enforce the Animal Protection and Welfare Act. In addition, it should be the local authorities' responsibility to provide TNR campaigns and not to be placed strictly in the hands of NGO that do not have sufficient funds or volunteers to handle a matter that is beyond their reach.</p> <p>My last plea is hear any cat owner's experience of having the blessing to have a cat in their family. I've been blessed twice: one cat that I adopted when she was one month old and another one I rescued after being abandoned on my street. My rescue kitten is the most grateful creature I have ever met and her face has changed ever since she became part of my family. Nina, my rescue, is a true testimony of why all stray or abandoned cats should be given a second chance and my drive to submit this comment for your consideration.</p>
1770	<p>En Puerto Rico hay muchos ciudadanos comprometidos con ayudar a los animales realengos del país, Save a Gato es una de las entidades que más de lleno ha trabajado en el control de la población de gatos en Viejo San Juan. Ciertamente, su excelente labor se aprecia al ver gatos en buenas condiciones por los alrededores de VSJ. Gatos en buen peso y en buena apariencia física gracias a los cuidados que ciudadanos voluntarios hacen; donando de su tiempo, dinero y energía. Por favor, permitan a entidades como Save a Gato continuar haciendo esa labor tan encomiable. No perdamos de perspectiva que vivimos en un mundo que debemos compartir nuestro espacio con otros seres vivientes que aportan a nuestro entorno y al balance ecológico.</p>
1771	<p>Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas.</p>
1772	<p>Preserving the cats in Paseo Del Morro offers many benefits to residents of Old San Juan and Puerto Rico. I don't live in Old San Juan, but when I visit, it is truly amazing to see how these caring animals welcome you and how many tourists take pictures and appreciate how Puerto Rico preserves the cat community. It is an example of a caring country; a must needed thing during these hard times. This program has many volunteers that look after the health and well-being of all these animals. These cats are healthy animals and do not promote any disease. Many volunteers have worked hard for years to ensure that all cats have food and, most importantly, that they have population control surgery (TNR). TNR is the only viable way to control the cat population, not exterminating them. The cat population of Old San Juan also contributes to pest control. Apart from the fact that cats are animals full of love that benefit human beings. They promote a feeling of peace and transmit positive frequencies through their purrs that help the human being in times of stress. Removing the cats in Paseo Del Morro is an unfair and cruel act. Please reconsider and protect these loving animals.</p> <p>Thank you, a cat lover.</p>
1773	<p>San Juan was the first home I knew, and I always look forward to seeing the cats when I visit my family there. Everyone I know loves them, if for no other reason then them keep away the</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	rats. Trying to remove the cats is misguided at best. Taking the cats away would remove local flavor in favor of more rats.
1774	NO MATAR A LOS GATOS DEL VIEJO SAN JUAN. LOS GATITOS DEL VIEJO SAN JUAN SON LOS QUE ACEN QUE SAN JUAN SEA SAN JUAN. ELLOS CUIDAN LOS ALREDEDORES DE RATAS Y CUCARACHAS. NO LOS MATEN.
1775	PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE KEEP EL PASEO DEL MORRO FOR THE CATS. That's they're only home/ where they have know, and grown. If y'all decide to remove them, they're Lives will be over. Either they will be put to sleep/ or treated bad from bad people. God put us here, to protect our animals.
1776	<p>I understand your concern. Dealing with a feral cats is probably not an easy task. They reproduce at a high paste and having that under control takes a lot of work. That's why we already count with an organization called Save a Gato which has been working tirelessly to promote a healthy, sterilized cat population. These are people really committed to the well being of this animals. Please, make their effort count. Lets not put to waste this amazing effort this organization has been doing for the last 20 years. Making such a drastic and inhumane decision as the eradication of a whole cat community is, besides the obvious poor alternative it is, it's a horrendous premonition of were are we going as a society.</p> <p>Don't do this.</p>
1777	No debemos dejar que maten a animales que claramente no tienen la culpa
1778	Removing cats from your cities with only allow infestation to rise with rats and other things cats are meant to control and keep things such as those in check. Leave the cats alone! Save A Gato is the solution to helping these cats. Don't take away the tour sites for cats. Cats are meant to have balance. As a Californian, I stand with the organization Save A Gato and with the people of Puerto Rico!
1779	<p>The cats in "El paseo de la Princesa" have been one of my favorite things to do in Old San Juan for years. The first time I seen this, many years ago, it was shown to me by my mother which lived in Puerto Rico. I was so impressed on how well taken care of all these kitties were. It was the first time I saw compassion for animals in an island I despised due to the way animals were treated while growing up. Many tourist stopped coming to the island due to all the inhumane conditions animals were kept, thrown on the street sick and hungry, hit by cars everywhere, and no help. Save a gato is such an amazing organization it brings a better picture to how Puerto Rican people are. These cats are well taken care of. Tourist and locals love this! Foreigners have even adopted cats that they have met on their vacation to San Juan. To take this away is incomprehensible to me. This is a good thing Puerto Rico has going on. The gatos of Old San Juan are symbolic to the area. Puerto Rico has so many other issues it needs to concentrate on, instead of focusing on taking away something that is actually good, compassionate and humane. Please have a heart and soul and let these poor creatures that are loved be. Thank you!</p>
1780	Las razones para este plan no me parecen convincentes. La falta de gatos en San Juan causará una plaga de ratas. La adopción de gatos se puede coordinar con estados como Massachussets. Los gatos son una atracción turística en San Juan.
1781	<p>Concerns regarding claims presented in the document "Free-Ranging Cat Management Plan"-</p> <p>"Shortly after the construction of the Paseo, a population of free-ranging domestic cats (<i>Felis catus</i>) colonized the area."</p> <p>There is voluminous historical research regarding the presence and function of domestic cats</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>in maritime communities and colonial-era settlements. It is a dubious claim that the presence of cats in this area of Old San Juan manifested specifically upon the construction of the Paseo. Cats were always in the area throughout significant historical periods.</p> <p>"Once we have received and considered your comments, we will move to the next phase, which will include refining the alternatives and analyzing the potential effects to the environment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act, and other applicable legal requirements."</p> <p>Has NPS, especially as it operates under the current federal administration, considered that the imposition and interpretation of the federal statutes cited in the proposed document and the proposed methodology for this undertaking might be unwelcome and come across as an attempt to undermine the agency and free will that is of high importance to many Puerto Ricans regarding their history, culture, and home? The garritas of the historic sites are one of the most widely recognized symbols of Puerto Rico itself, and NPS is now arbitrarily imposing regulations and rulemaking processes because a yet-to-be-cited source has deemed that there are too many cats sleeping and eating too close to them. Considering the political and cultural context of this historic site, this is an administrative overreach and at a base level, disrespectful.</p> <p>The statement reads that NPS "will move to the next phase." Is NPS certain that the community and organization Save a Gato have buy-in to the process itself? It would seem prudent in this situation to seek input about the process itself from stakeholders before imposing a template process that has likely been used in situations with vastly different considerations, such as the management of so-called "invasive species" in rural and sparsely populated lands in the western continental U.S. This process should be immediately halted and withdrawn until adequate participatory consultation about the process and proposals themselves, and even then only taken up again if less formal means of resolving the issues have not been successful.</p> <p>Assuming the 2005 Memorandum of Understanding with Save a Gato is still vigilant, why did NPS opt to seemingly blindside this organization by imposing a bureaucratic means of addressing concerns? It should not be necessary to roll out and push forward with a bureaucratic federal process on an organization, community, or Puerto Rico at large when dealing with these cats. As the saying goes, 'when the only tool you think you have is a hammer, all problems start to appear as nails.</p> <p>NPS should be especially mindful that taking action that is not favorable for existing cats in the area and without the support of a key stakeholder organization may result in well-publicized and active protests in the area of the park and online, with both local and international support. I'm sure NPS is aware of the backlash that occurred when authorities disrupted the status quo by approving the construction of a pool on a public beach in Rincon. The cats are in a sense public property and it is broadly supported that they should be allowed to continue to exist on public property, including historic sites.</p> <p>"...in accordance with existing authorities for invasive species."</p> <p>As previously mentioned, this historic site is unique in its location in an urban area rich in culture and history, and the cats should not be classified as an invasive species in this context.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>"The free-ranging cats and feeding stations are not consistent with the cultural landscape."</p> <p>Based on the logic of this assertion, would NPS also propose prohibiting families from flying colorful plastic kites at the historical sites? Surely that is also inconsistent with the cultural landscape.</p> <p>The cats and feeding stations are consistent with the cultural landscape. San Juan National Historic Site is not a geographically isolated area. It is intertwined with the living, vibrant cultural landscape and heritage of Old San Juan, including its cats, the organizations that advocate for them, and the tens of thousands of annual visitors who adore seeing them. To the extent that the feeding and watering stations may not be aesthetically pleasing and do not blend in with the surrounding environment, design proposals should be solicited and funding provided to construct stations that blend in with the physical landscape. For example, they could be made from sturdy wood, be accompanied by signage, and be painted in a more neutral color.</p> <p>"Encounters between visitors and cats and the smell of urine and feces are also inconsistent with the cultural landscape."</p> <p>I have personally visited the entire area many times and have never encountered this issue</p> <p>&quot;The impacts of free-ranging cats on wildlife are well documented and are likely occurring at the park.&quot;</p> <p>What basis does NPS have to make the claim that the problem is "likely" happening at this specific site? It appears that there is no factual support for this claim, and this point is being brought up in an attempt to substantiate it is an issue in subsequent studies. The historic site was long occupied by more dense human populations, and it is doubtful that the historical site area has served as a significant refuge for native bird species throughout its existence.</p> <p>Comments on Preliminary Alternatives-</p> <p>The "No Action" scenarios proposed by NPS: The proposed items here are less than the status quo of the current situation, and therefore it is not appropriate to characterize them as taking "no action."</p> <p>The &quot;Proposed Action&quot; proposed by NPS: "The National Park Service would contract a professional organization or agency (removal agency) to remove cats from the park."</p> <p>NPS proceeds to outline that it could directly fund five different possible actions for the removal of cats, but none of those include funding removal by means of collaborating to promote adoptions to permanent homes for adoptable cats, or removal through attrition strategies such as funding more aggressive spay and neuter efforts in the area.</p> <p>NPS should clarify definitively, publicly, and in plain language, immediately, whether any action taken by NPS or its proposed contractor to assist in the removal of cats, would result in any way in the euthanization of the removed cats.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>My Proposed Alternative: "Enhanced Collaboration," through negotiation of a new MOU with Save A Gato and other stakeholders, outside of the scope of this current process.</p> <p>NPS should embrace this situation with creativity and attempt to find a mutually beneficial resolution that is not based on highly structured and bureaucratic processes. This approach could serve as a pilot for a new model for collaboration with local communities and organizations.</p> <p>NPS should offer a meaningful amount of renewable grant funding to existing community organizations that have a legacy of involvement, specifically Save A Gato, to assist with providing care for and promoting the adoption of the cats.</p> <p>NPS should acknowledge the historical and cultural significance of the cats and local organizations, with official signage and exhibits around the site facilities and online.</p> <p>NPS should collaborate with local artists to sell beautiful, locally made souvenirs featuring the cats in the gift shop.</p> <p>NPS should promote and facilitate opportunities for visitors to donate to Save A Gato, gain awareness about spay and neuter practices, and adopt cats living in the area.</p> <p>NPS should encourage federal and local authorities to increase funding for efforts across the island to offer widespread spay and neuter services free of charge, in consideration of the significant impact of recent hurricanes, COVID-19, and economic hardships on residents and organizations dedicated to caring for cats.</p>
1782	Please dont kill the cats. Dont have those hundreds of deaths on your soul. It sticks
1783	<p>The cats in Viejo San Juan are taking care by non profit organization called Save a Gato. This public policy should be implemented by you, the government. These animals deserved better plan to be relocated and not the easy way to euthanize them because the government has cero interest and cero support for shelters either, that the only interest is to look forever homes for them. The people who care for the dignity of these abandoned animals, yes they don't ask to live there we put it there because of the lack of education and the government who has no plan for them. Please reunite with the organizations and become with the plan, a good one on behalf of the dignity of the cats of Viejo San Juan. They are not ALONE and we will FIGHT for them!</p> <p>Thanks,</p>
1784	Salvar los gatos, para que removerlos?
1785	<p>Saludos!</p> <p>Espero que se reconsidere su posición, yo nunca estaré de acuerdo a que retiren los gatos de VSJ .</p> <p>Son una necesidad muy importante para el control de roedores . Además en otras ciudades, ejemplo Ámsterdam , los tienen hasta ejemplo. Puedes ir a visitar el barco en el canal y hasta hacer donaciones.</p> <p>Me parece que mostrará una cara humana de nuestra ciudad . La carta la firma toda una familia,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1786	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>In recent events the government of Puerto Rico has an intent to remove and kill ferral cats in the area of known as Old San Juan. The government states mayi that these cats are a 1) a pest, 2) danger to the public, 3) affects tourism.</p> <p>These ferral cats are known locally as Colonial Cats:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Been in the old city for many generations encompassing centuries. 2. Are fed and care by local residents of Old San Juan 3. Non-profit companies and locals perform TNR (trap neuter and release) to manage the growth ferral colony. 4. Old San Juan is a cay joint to the main island by bridges at the opposite side of the city; therefore, ferral cats have a water barrier with only one entrance or exit to main island. 5. Due to be expose to humans on a daily basis Colonial Cats grow being surrounded by people and are accustomed. 6. Colonial Cats became a tourist attraction. Cat lovers around the world come to Puerto Rico to experience the presence of Colonial Cats on their natural habitat. 7. Colonial Cats help to keep control of rats and mice populations as is their natural predator. Puerto Rico do not have other predators for rats and mice in the City of Old san Juan. <p>This is a letter against the current intent by the Puerto Rico Government to eradicate adapted fauna in Old San Juan.</p>
1787	<p>Los gatitos ayudan a controlar las plagas del viejo san jan . Sin ellos no hubiese nada que mantuviera las plagas controladas , como las ratas, cucarachas, etc. Sin ellos habría q invertir en un sistema de fumigación.</p>
1788	<p>The cats of El Morro and Old San Juan are a fixture. As a person that is allergic and cannot have cats, even I understand that when I am there, I am in THEIR home. The removal, destruction and continued efforts to keep the cats away from their home would be just as costly as it would to TNR the cats. TNR is the responsible way to handle the overpopulation of cats/kittens.</p>
1789	<p>Los gatos son seres vivos,son como las personas tienen sentimiento y el matarlos no va a cambiar nada ya que es parte de nuestro planeta y se seguirán procreando. el</p>
1790	<p>No al maltrato animal, son animales y esta demás matar animales.</p>
1791	<p>Los Gato muy importante en esta sociedad. Ya que nos ayudan a que no haigan ratones 🐭 y tambien nos ayuda a que todo este limpio tiene que tener en cuenta y aunque saquen a los Gatos otros gagos van a seguir apareciendo .</p>
1792	<p>Es injusto que quieran eliminar a los gatos de allí, son inofensivos esos pobres animalitos.</p>
1793	<p>Por favor dejen los gatos en el viejo San Juan,ellos no le hacen daño a nadie.Sin embargo atraen a las personas que visitan el viejo San Juan.Ellos no merecen que los maten porque ellos también son animales como otros.Piensen más.</p>
1794	<p>I am against the elimination of cats, since they are a tourist attraction and they are also harmless and very cute animals</p>
1795	<p>No deberían matar a los gatos por qué si los matan van a venir los ratones.deberían de dejarlos para que pues no pase eso.</p>
1796	<p>The cats help control the population of rats in the area. They do no harm by being there and the way that the smell is there is not because of the cats it's because of the people that uses it as a bathroom wich is no good for it, cats don't use the space they live in as a bathroom, they</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	go somewhere else and do there business and they burry it. If you take out the cats there will be more cats coming there it won't change it. So taking them out of there isint gonna change anything.
1797	No maltrato al animal
1798	The cats help to control the rats in the city. They are an attraction to the tourist that visit the Old San Juan. They don't bother anyone. The Save a Gato foundation helps to neuter and spay that colony.
1799	A los animales no se les maltratan, no deberían matar a los gatos.
1800	Las personas van y viajan a Puerto Rico y específicamente a San Juan a ver el parque de las palomas, las tiendas, el parque de las princesas y mucho más. Pero algunos quieren ver a Los Gatos porque son unas criaturas que a muchas personas les encanta y no solo eso pero Los Gatos ayudan con los ratones y otros animales que no desean hay. Las personas encargados de esos gatos estuvieron más de 15 años cuidándolos a cada uno y no es justo quitárselos así en solo segundos. Esos animales no les hacen daño a nadie, al contrario, pueden atraer más gente si eso es lo que ustedes desean. Porque quitar Los Gatos y no a las iguanas!? No tiene sentido. Tenga un poco de corazón y dejen a Los Gatos en su hogar que sería esa calle en San Juan.
1801	Los gatos los necesito
1802	<p>No sería bueno que los sacaran de San Juan, ya que ayuda a disminuir las ratas y porqué deberíamos sacar a los gatos y no a las palomas? Porque sacar específicamente los gatos y no a otros animales?. Hazte esta pregunta: te gustaría que te sacaran de donde te establecistes?, yo creo que me dirias que no, es lo mismo estarían sacando a un animal que ya se estableció ahí, que ya es su hogar. Reflexionen porque no sirve de nada sacar a ese animal y en vez q ayude podría afectar a San Juan.</p> <p>Este podría ser un comentario más, pero vale mucho.</p>
1803	.
1804	Los gatos son casadores naturales, osea que si quitad a los gatos que pasa? La cantidad de ratones sube, y todo el mundo prefiere gatos a ratones, los gatos son tiernos, atraen a las personas y mo hacen daño, cuando tu has visto un gato hacer daño? Osea ellos ven una persona y salen corriendo, también se puede decir que los gatos ayudan a atraer turistas y publicidad, porque quitar los gatos si ayudan?
1805	Animals make us humans happier. Cats are very affectionate and have a great character. The cat is not a social animal, but it is capable of establishing a binding and affective relationship. There is no doubt that the cat can establish affective and binding relationships with individuals of its own species, as well as other species, including humans.
1806	Old San Juan's cats are cared by Save a Gato and with their TNR program they try to control the population. These cats are a hallmark of the city, in addition to helping with pest control. Do not eliminate them, run a campaign to prevent people from continuing to leave animals in the area.
1807	Saquen a los invasores gringos antes que a Los Gatos
1808	Buenas! Nací y crecí en PR, y ahora vivo en EU. Siempre que voy a visitar y voy a San Juan, me alegra mucho ver a los gatitos ahí. Por favor, déjenlos tranquilitos ahí! No molestan a nadie. Los más que deberían hacer es esterilizarlos y después dejarlos en libertad, pero déjenlos en el area!
1809	We need to protect The cats on Old San Juan

Corr ID	Correspondence
1810	I'm not in favor of the cat removal, unless a sanctuary is built in Old San Juan. The cats are an iconic view. Even countries who we might think that are lesser than us, like Turkey. Have a better management program. Instead of removing, I believe more education must be given.
1811	The live's of the wild cat's found in Viejo San Juan are innocent and don't bother anyone. They actively help keep the city clean of rat's which could bring diseases.
1812	Why not better eliminate all stupid people like you? Those creatures do no harm. On tje co trary they are a blesding. Eliminate better all stupid sb politicians and pepple luke the ones that had such an irresponsi le and cruel idea. Do not poison or kill thesr creatures. Poison yourselves and we get rid of the worst plague in the world
1813	The cats help keep the streets clean of rats and, to be frank, don't affect anybody.
1814	<p>Defensa de l@s gat@s libres de San Juan</p> <p>En el sendero artificial que bordea la ruta amurallada de la costa oeste del viejo San Juan, desde la puerta de la ciudad en el paseo de la Princesa hasta detrás del castillo San Felipe del Morro; allí, en un pequeño tramo pavimentado al pie de las antiguas fortificaciones de la ciudad capital, tendido entre hileras de inmensas rocas puestas de rompeolas y de freno provisional al impacto de la erosión natural y su devenir; una colonia nativa de felinos libres enfrenta amenaza de muerte por una agencia del gobierno federal...</p> <p>Hacia finales del mes de octubre de 2022, el National Park Service (NPS) -adscrito al Departamento del Interior de EE.UU.- reveló su intención de exterminar a la comunidad de gatos que hace lapsos inmemoriales hizo su hogar entre el paseo del Morro y el mar. Esta agencia se arroga potestad genocida, no porque la comuna felina represente problemas reales, sino porque ostenta con insensibilidad y soberbia la jurisdicción administrativa del espacio donde ésta habita en libertad; apreciada y disfrutada, cuidada y protegida por la ciudadanía insular y visitantes de todas partes del mundo.</p> <p>Creemos que la existencia de esa comunidad felina tiene valor en sí misma. Sabemos que, para paseantes locales y extranjeros, la comuna de gatos que vive ahí, por el solo hecho de existir, atrae y alegra el recorrido del sendero. Creemos que luchar en su defensa es una causa justa y necesaria; que protegerla es una responsabilidad indelegable de la ciudadanía y, en armonía, un acto de amor que nos hace mejores seres humanos. Sabemos que el plan del NPS para exterminar la colonia de gatos no solo carece de fundamentos legítimos sino que, a la vez, es insostenible moralmente; y que la matanza prevista constituye un acto de crueldad, vileza y atrocidad criminal.</p> <p>Mediante este escrito, respondemos a la convocatoria oficial del NPS a someter "comentarios", "ideas" y "opiniones" sobre su plan de "manejo" genocida. Con él, nos sumamos a las voces defensoras de los gatos nativos que viven en los predios del paseo de Morro y nos hacemos eco de los reclamos urgentes por garantizar su existencia y mejorar sus condiciones de vida en libertad...</p> <p>I. Apuntes sobre la primera reunión con el NPS</p> <p>...el pasado miércoles, 2 de noviembre, asistimos a la primera "reunión de casa abierta" en el castillo San Cristóbal, en San Juan, convocada por el National Park Service (NPS), para "conocer" y "hablar" con su personal sobre su Plan de Manejo de Gatos Realengos (PMGR). La primera hora de la citada reunión fue algo caótica, pues el personal del NPS había sido</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>instruido para evitar e impedir que la ciudadanía participante pudiera expresarse abiertamente y levantar, sin coacciones irrazonables o censuras previas, sus dudas, críticas y oposiciones. El formato previsto por el NPS se limitaba a que leyéramos ahí mismo su plan impreso en pancartas y escucháramos sus instrucciones en inglés y español, para luego dejarles por escrito lo que fuera que cada cual y de manera individual quisiera escribir sobre el asunto. Demás está decir que -hasta ese momento- creíamos -quizás más por buena fe que por ingenuidad- que nos habían invitado a reunirnos para tener un diálogo reflexivo y honesto con el NPS; sobre todo porque el documento (PMGR) ya había sido publicado en su página oficial en internet; reseñado en la prensa local; y comentado extensamente en las redes sociales desde finales del mes de octubre. Pero la posibilidad de apertura a un debate público, reclamado por los presentes, fue negada rotundamente por el personal del NPS. La indignación de quienes asistimos se hizo saber y sentir con firmeza, y finalmente nos dimos a respetar y pudimos expresar y compartir colectivamente y a viva voz nuestras impresiones y posiciones...</p> <p>Este párrafo introductorio es revelador, pues relata la primera experiencia e impresión que tuvimos sobre esta agencia federal, que no solo administra determinados sitios históricos en la ciudad capital de San Juan, sino que, además, se ha arrogado el poder de determinar sobre la vida y la muerte de los felinos que habitan dentro de su jurisdicción administrativa. Nos preguntamos, ¿qué interés puede tener el NPS en impedir el diálogo público y en pretender coartar la libertad de expresión de la ciudadanía participante en una reunión convocada por la propia agencia? ¿Será, acaso, que el NPS no interesa escuchar la opinión del público sino simplemente aparentar que la tomará en cuenta? ¿Para qué insistir en la exclusividad de la expresión escrita e individual? Y, en contraste, ¿para qué impedir el diálogo abierto; el debate reflexivo; la duda sin artificios ni falsos miramientos; la crítica constructiva y, en fin, la oportunidad de compartir perspectivas y posiciones de manera honesta?</p> <p>Nadie sabe qué hará el NPS, si algo, con las expresiones escritas. Por el carácter premeditado de su negativa a abrirse al diálogo público y por la forma como se comportó esa noche, ponemos en tela de juicio la intensión de la reunión y, al mismo tiempo, el plan de exterminio de la colonia felina bajo sus dominios administrativos.</p> <p>No obstante, para subsanar esa primera impresión y promover un espíritu de buena fe entre quienes defendemos el derecho a existir de los gatos libres de San Juan y esta agencia federal que quiere matarlos, es preciso garantizar la transparencia del "proceso de planificación para atender el asunto de los gatos..."</p> <p>Una primera condición es que el NPS garantice que publicará todos los escritos que le sean sometidos en su página web, tal y como le son entregados, sin recortes arbitrarios ni ediciones que disfracen censuras.</p> <p>II. Análisis crítico sobre el plan de "manejo" genocida del NPS</p> <p>Para comprender el carácter atroz del asunto en ciernes es preciso abordarlo desde una perspectiva ética, es decir, arraigada en un compromiso de honestidad radical. En este ánimo, además de levantar sospechas bien fundadas, advertimos y denunciarnos que el principal objetivo del Plan de Manejo de Gatos Realengos del NPS es exterminar la comunidad de felinos libres que viven en el paseo del Morro. Se trata, pues, de un plan para implantar una política genocida -inmoral, injusta e injustificada- contra la colonia de gatos nativos que</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>residen en los predios del "Sendero Recreativo Nacional Paseo del Morro".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que el "propósito" de su macabro plan es "atender" las poblaciones de "gatos realengos" que viven en los predios del paseo. <p>-La palabra "atender" es un eufemismo, y no debe crear falsas expectativas o ilusiones ingenuas. La intención tácita del plan del NPS es deshacerse de manera absoluta de todos los gatos, atraparlos y exterminarlos. Se trata de un plan de naturaleza criminal. La retórica suave con la que se pretende encubrir esta política aberrante es reveladora del tipo de mentalidad perversa que la subyace, que la anima y que la mueve a considerar legítima y necesaria la masacre de la comuna de gatos sanjuaneros.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que la acción propuesta para la primera fase del plan de "manejo de gatos en libertad" sería la "remoción de gatos". A tal fin, "contrataría a una organización o agencia profesional" para "removerlos" y que "usaría su mejor criterio profesional para gestionar la captura y el retiro humanitario de los gatos..." <p>-La realidad que da al traste con la farsa de "remoción" propuesta por el NPS, es que en esta Isla no existen alternativas factibles de traslado o reubicación. Los refugios insulares están llenos a capacidad y es de común conocimiento que, lejos de ser centros de adopción efectivos son mataderos.</p> <p>-La verdad es que la palabra "remoción" es un eufemismo con el que el NPS encubre su intención de eliminar, sea como sea, la presencia de gatos en el sendero recreativo del Morro. Entre líneas se lee con claridad la voluntad genocida del NPS.</p> <p>-El NPS se desentiende de su responsabilidad sobre la suerte y vida de los gatos capturados y removidos, y la cede a la "agencia de remoción" que, en su lugar -a sabiendas de que no hay dónde reubicarlos y que el abandono de animales es ilegal en Puerto Rico- estaría a cargo de "sacrificarlos humanamente"; es decir, de exterminarlos...</p> <p>Tal es la perversidad que sostiene este plan del NPS, que no escatima en falsear la realidad, en exagerarla, en sacarla de proporción y de contexto, en fin, en mentir descaradamente para justificarse a sí mismo y crear así una fachada de razonabilidad que, sin embargo, se desmorona enseguida porque no soporta el peso de sus propias falsedades y mentiras:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que el "propósito" de su plan de exterminio de la comuna felina es "mejorar la experiencia y la seguridad de sus visitantes y empleados..."; y apunta que, de más de un millón de visitas anuales, "muchos visitantes se quejan de ver a los gatos", mientras que "otros" los disfrutan. <p>-Sin fundamento racional ni evidencia objetiva que lo sostenga, el NPS plantea que la sola existencia de los gatos sanjuaneros afecta o impacta negativamente la "experiencia" y la "seguridad" de los seres humanos que usamos y disfrutamos el espacio recreacional del paseo; y que, para garantizar una experiencia positiva y segura, es preciso exterminarlos.</p> <p>-Numerosas entrevistas a residentes insulares y turistas usuarios del paseo del Morro, así como centenares de comentarios, videos, fotografías, testimonios y expresiones ciudadanas en medios informativos y redes sociales, evidencian que son precisamente los gatos libres</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>uno de los principales atractivos de ese paseo-parque recreativo; y la interacción pasiva o activa con paseantes de todas las edades está bien documentada como experiencia agradable y gratificante.</p> <p>*Las mismas fuentes desmienten el "propósito" y la "necesidad" del plan genocida del NPS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que su plan de exterminio de la comuna felina es "necesario" para "reducir los problemas de seguridad (...) asociados con los gatos realengos"; porque "los visitantes que se acercan a los gatos en libertad en el parque también pueden ser mordidos o arañados." <p>- No existe evidencia de caso alguno que justifique la falsa premisa del NPS. De haber registro de algún incidente aislado, éste debe considerarse en su particular contexto y no generalizar prejuicios infundados y malintencionados para "demonizar" la existencia de la comuna felina y justificar su exterminio.</p> <p>- La verdad es que los gatos libres que habitan en los predios del paseo del Morro no representan ningún riesgo a la seguridad de sus usuarios, residentes o visitantes.</p> <p>-El uso premeditado de una retórica alarmista en el plan de exterminio del NPS es una modalidad de terrorismo discursivo, y cumple el objetivo de inculcar temores a la ciudadanía para, en el acto, manipularla a consentir y avalar las matanzas. En fin, decir que los gatos presentan problemas de seguridad es una mentira diseñada para infundir miedos imaginarios y provocar reacciones psicológicas que favorezcan -sin razón y por miedo- la alternativa genocida del NPS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que su plan de exterminio es "necesario" para "reducir los problemas de salud humana (...) asociadas con los gatos realengos." Sin fundamento confiable y veraz y con el fin tácito de generar temor y repulsión entre la ciudadanía y usuarios del paseo del Morro, plantea el NPS que "los gatos realengos pueden portar enfermedades que pueden transmitirse a los humanos y a la vida silvestre..." y que "...pueden infectarse con parásitos (...) que pueden transmitirse a los humanos a través de la ingestión accidental de tierra o heces contaminadas." <p>-Lo cierto es que no existe evidencia de caso alguno que justifique la política de asesinato en masa propuesta por el NPS. La especulación carece de mérito, es frívola e irresponsable. Además, promover el exterminio de la comuna de gatos (como cualquier otra especie de animales no-humanos) sobre la base de meros prejuicios o sospechosas motivaciones, es insostenible.</p> <p>- La verdad es que los gatos libres que habitan en los predios del paseo del Morro no representan ningún riesgo a la salud de sus usuarios. El plan genocida del NPS descontextualiza los conocimientos científicos sobre la naturaleza biológica de las especies animales que coexisten en los predios del paseo; distorsiona la realidad de las relaciones con los seres humanos mediante especulaciones frívolas y sospechosas; fabrica retóricamente problemas que no existen realmente y enseguida los saca de proporción, los exagera y dramatiza con el fin perverso de aterrorizar a la ciudadanía y justificar las matanzas...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que el "propósito" del plan de matanzas de los gatos libres del

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>paseo del Morro es "proteger los recursos culturales..."; y plantea que dicho plan es "necesario" para "reducir los impactos (...) asociados con los gatos realengos." A tenor con su macabro plan de exterminio, plantea el NPS que "los gatos realengos (...) no son consistentes con el paisaje cultural..."</p> <p>- Estas falsas afirmaciones carecen de sentido y coherencia, y responden a la intención de manipular los buenos sentimientos de la ciudadanía hacia los gatos libres de San Juan. Lo cierto es que la presencia de gatos en la ciudad capital en general así como en los predios del paseo del Morro, está fuertemente arraigada dentro del espectro cultural de lo puertorriqueño. Las manifestaciones de repudio al plan genocida del NPS y las expresiones en defensa de los gatos del paseo del Morro lo evidencian...</p> <p>- Tan es así que la legislación insular reconoce, reivindica y protege los derechos a existir de todas las especies animales que habitan esta Isla; incluyendo a los gatos, por supuesto, con los que gran parte de este pueblo mantiene profundos lazos afectivos... Que el NPS o el gobierno federal estadounidense no lo comprendan, es asunto suyo. Su expresa ignorancia, sin embargo, sigue poniendo en riesgo la vida de la comunidad felina de San Juan...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que "los encuentros entre visitantes y gatos y el olor a orina y heces también son incompatibles con el paisaje cultural." <p>-La premisa, además de falsear la realidad de la experiencia entre paseantes y especies de animales que conviven en los predios del paseo del Morro, es incoherente. En primer lugar, porque la presencia felina es parte constitutiva del "paisaje cultural" en la ciudad de San Juan como en el resto de la Isla.</p> <p>-Por la ubicación geográfica del sendero recreativo del Morro y las condiciones medioambientales en que se enmarca, el flujo constante de vientos marinos y las lluvias diarias, minimizan el efecto de los olores de orina, concentrados, si acaso, en las pequeñas áreas donde los gatos se concentran a comer...</p> <p>-Además, nada positivo a esta Isla, al mundo o a la humanidad, se desprende de la intolerancia que proyecta y promueve el NPS; que justifica las matanzas de gatos por razón de puras changuerías.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que los esfuerzos organizados para el control natal de la población de gatos han sido infructuosos, porque "nuevos gatos llegan a la colonia de otras poblaciones"; porque se han visto algunas gatas preñadas y nuevas crías, y algunos gatos domésticos son liberados allí, por lo que procede su propuesta de "remoción" genocida... <p>-Durante casi 20 años una organización de ciudadanos voluntarios (Save a Gato) ha asumido el cuidado y protección de la población felina en los predios del Morro, los alimenta con sus propios recursos y practica el método de captura, esterilización y/o castración (y vacunación) para devolverlos a su hábitat en libertad. Aunque el NPS lo niegue, esta práctica es efectiva, pues elimina las posibilidades de reproducción y controla significativamente el crecimiento poblacional, minimiza las peleas y, entre otras cosas, facilita las posibilidades de adopción. No obstante, el NPS, en lugar de procurar financiamiento federal para el bienestar de la colonia de gatos, reprocha viciosamente que el programa de Save a Gato es inefectivo, y promueve suplantarlo con su política de exterminio...</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que el "propósito" del plan de matanzas de los gatos libres del paseo del Morro incluye "proteger los recursos naturales..."; y plantea que dicho plan es "necesario" para "reducir los impactos (...) asociados con los gatos realengos." <p>-Lo cierto es que esta premisa no solo es inconsecuente por su falsedad sino que el NPS ni siquiera aborda el tema dentro del saco de remilgos que integran su plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que su plan genocida está "de acuerdo con las políticas existentes para el manejo de especies invasoras"; y que es "necesario" para "cumplir" y "reducir los impactos (...) para las especies de vida silvestre nativas asociadas con los gatos realengos." Especula el NPS -sin fundamento objetivo e irresponsablemente- que los gatos contribuyen a la extinción de especies, porque "son indiscriminados en lo que matan, y a menudo son asesinos excedentes, no siempre comen lo que matan." <p>-Lo cierto es que miente nuevamente el NPS, pues los gatos son parte de las especies nativas; y si rastreamos sus genealogías posiblemente confirmaremos que habitan en esta Isla antes de que se forjara la identidad puertorriqueña y, ciertamente antes de la invasión estadounidense. Las relaciones entre las diversas especies que coexisten en los predios del paseo del Morro pertenecen a la naturaleza de las mismas y nada, absolutamente nada, podemos hacer para cambiarlas a gusto y gana. Además, no existe prueba alguna que evidencie la peligrosidad innata de los gatos del paseo, y mucho menos evidencia de que esté en riesgo alguna otra especie animal que cohabite o merodee por el lugar. Es la comuna felina de San Juan la que está en peligro de extinción, pero no por depredadores naturales sino por la brutalidad atroz de la agencia federal que la patrocina...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que las siete estaciones de alimentación, distribuidas en un tramo de casi una milla, "no son consistentes con el paisaje cultural"; y propone eliminarlas después de capturar y "remover" los gatos. • Expone falsamente el NPS que las estaciones de alimentación "atraen ratas" y que sus censos "han mostrado que las ratas se alimentan junto a los gatos." <p>-El NPS, en su desesperación por justificar su compulsión asesina, se contradice cuando alega que los gatos, por su propia naturaleza, "contribuyen a la extinción de especies" y que "son indiscriminados en lo que matan..."; y, sin embargo, "las ratas se alimentan junto a los gatos."</p> <p>- Lo cierto es que es más probable que un estudio serio revele que la presencia de gatos en la zona del paseo contribuye a la reducción de la población de ratas. Sin embargo, el valor de la existencia de esta comuna felina no depende ni un ápice de su valor de uso para el NPS.</p> <p>-Además, plantear que la presencia de gatos y de estaciones de alimentos deben eliminarse porque otros animales se las ingenian para alimentarse, es, de facto, una frivolidad...</p> <p>III. Conclusión preliminar y sugerencias</p> <p>El Plan de Manejo de Gatos Realengos (PMGR) del National Park Service (NPS) se caracteriza por su marcada carencia de información veraz y de datos objetivos confiables que sostengan la necesidad de exterminar a la comunidad de gatos libres que viven en los predios</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>del paseo del Morro. Para justificar la "remoción" y consecuente exterminio de esta comunidad felina, el plan del NPS no ha escatimado en distorsionar la realidad y suplantar los conocimientos científicos por prejuicios, exageraciones y retóricas de miedo que, en lugar de dar luz sobre el asunto, se convierte en un gran chantaje psicológico para atraer complicidades hacia su política genocida. El NPS ha creado un falso problema e inculcado temores con el fin de manipular a la ciudadanía para que el miedo y no la razón justique el atroz negocio de las matanzas de los gatos libres de San Juan.</p> <p>Fabricar argumentos que generen confusión y desprecio hacia los animales no-humanos es contrario al espíritu de las leyes regentes en el estado de derecho de Puerto Rico. Hacerlo no solo viola la legislación insular sino que, al mismo tiempo, incita al maltrato, a la violencia y la crueldad contra los animales.</p> <p>Dentro de este tétrico escenario y en oposición al plan de remoción/exterminio del NPS, proponemos:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Que el NPS retire de inmediato el actual Plan de Manejo de Gatos Realengos; se retracte públicamente; y se comprometa a garantizar la estancia, seguridad y bienestar de los gatos que habitan en los predios del paseo del Morro... 2. Que el paseo del Morro y sus alrededores, donde vive la comuna felina, sea declarado, reconocido y respetado como santuario de las especies de animales no-humanos que coexisten ahí... 3. Que de aquí en adelante, el NPS se comprometa a estudiar y respetar el espíritu y contenido de las declaraciones protectoras de los derechos universales de los animales y, en particular, la política pública y legislaciones afines en el estado de derecho puertorriqueño. 4. Que todos los escritos sometidos al NPS como parte del proceso en torno al PMGR sean publicados en su página oficial sin censura.
1815	<p>Los Gatos controlan las ratas y ratones que se escondían. En adición están controlados, atendidos, esterilizados y vacunados. Al estar ellos se evita que lleguen otras colonias controlando la cantidad de los mismos.</p>
1816	<p>Saludos. De esta manera, expongo mi total oposición a la propuesta de remover Los Gatos de viejo San Juan. Ellos son parte de la comunidad. No son gatos "realengos", ya que son alimentados, cuidados, esterilizados y vacunados. Son la principal razón de que el viejo San Juan NO esté inundado en plagas indeseadas (ratones, ratas, cucarachas, etc). No solo cumplen con ese rol tan importante, sino, que también son un apoyo emocional para mi y muchísimas personas. Promueven la salud mental, algo tan importante en estos momentos. Somos muchas las personas, junto a save a gato (organización sin fines de lucro), que cuidamos a estos gatitos. Ellos son parte de la comunidad y no representan ningún peligro ni nada negativo, por el contrario. Les ruego, con el corazón en la mano, que por favor no den continuidad a esta horrible propuesta de matar a Los Gatos. Hay muchísimas maneras de poder trabajar en equipo y buscar un desenlace que no busque acabar con la vida de estas criaturas de especiales y esenciales para un viejo San Juan limpio y saludable.</p>
1817	<p>Defensa de l@s gat@s libres de San Juan</p> <p>En el sendero artificial que bordea la ruta amurallada de la costa oeste del viejo San Juan,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>desde la puerta de la ciudad en el paseo de la Princesa hasta detrás del castillo San Felipe del Morro; allí, en un pequeño tramo pavimentado al pie de las antiguas fortificaciones de la ciudad capital, tendido entre hileras de inmensas rocas puestas de rompeolas y de freno provisional al impacto de la erosión natural y su devenir; una colonia nativa de felinos libres enfrenta amenaza de muerte por una agencia del gobierno federal...</p> <p>Hacia finales del mes de octubre de 2022, el National Park Service (NPS) -adscrito al Departamento del Interior de EE.UU.- reveló su intención de exterminar a la comunidad de gatos que hace lapsos inmemoriales hizo su hogar entre el paseo del Morro y el mar. Esta agencia se arroga potestad genocida, no porque la comuna felina represente problemas reales, sino porque ostenta con insensibilidad y soberbia la jurisdicción administrativa del espacio donde ésta habita en libertad; apreciada y disfrutada, cuidada y protegida por la ciudadanía insular y visitantes de todas partes del mundo.</p> <p>Creemos que la existencia de esa comunidad felina tiene valor en sí misma. Sabemos que, para paseantes locales y extranjeros, la comuna de gatos que vive ahí, por el solo hecho de existir, atrae y alegra el recorrido del sendero. Creemos que luchar en su defensa es una causa justa y necesaria; que protegerla es una responsabilidad indelegable de la ciudadanía y, en armonía, un acto de amor que nos hace mejores seres humanos. Sabemos que el plan del NPS para exterminar la colonia de gatos no solo carece de fundamentos legítimos sino que, a la vez, es insostenible moralmente; y que la matanza prevista constituye un acto de crueldad, vileza y atrocidad criminal.</p> <p>Mediante este escrito, respondemos a la convocatoria oficial del NPS a someter "comentarios", "ideas" y "opiniones" sobre su plan de "manejo" genocida. Con él, nos sumamos a las voces defensoras de los gatos nativos que viven en los predios del paseo de Morro y nos hacemos eco de los reclamos urgentes por garantizar su existencia y mejorar sus condiciones de vida en libertad...</p> <p>I. Apuntes sobre la primera reunión con el NPS</p> <p>...el pasado miércoles, 2 de noviembre, asistimos a la primera "reunión de casa abierta" en el castillo San Cristóbal, en San Juan, convocada por el National Park Service (NPS), para "conocer" y "hablar" con su personal sobre su Plan de Manejo de Gatos Realengos (PMGR). La primera hora de la citada reunión fue algo caótica, pues el personal del NPS había sido instruido para evitar e impedir que la ciudadanía participante pudiera expresarse abiertamente y levantar, sin coacciones irrazonables o censuras previas, sus dudas, críticas y oposiciones. El formato previsto por el NPS se limitaba a que leyéramos ahí mismo su plan impreso en pancartas y escucháramos sus instrucciones en inglés y español, para luego dejarles por escrito lo que fuera que cada cual y de manera individual quisiera escribir sobre el asunto. Demás está decir que -hasta ese momento- creíamos -quizás más por buena fe que por ingenuidad- que nos habían invitado a reunirnos para tener un diálogo reflexivo y honesto con el NPS; sobre todo porque el documento (PMGR) ya había sido publicado en su página oficial en internet; reseñado en la prensa local; y comentado extensamente en las redes sociales desde finales del mes de octubre. Pero la posibilidad de apertura a un debate público, reclamado por los presentes, fue negada rotundamente por el personal del NPS. La indignación de quienes asistimos se hizo saber y sentir con firmeza, y finalmente nos dimos a respetar y pudimos expresar y compartir colectivamente y a viva voz nuestras impresiones y posiciones...</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Este párrafo introductorio es revelador, pues relata la primera experiencia e impresión que tuvimos sobre esta agencia federal, que no solo administra determinados sitios históricos en la ciudad capital de San Juan, sino que, además, se ha arrogado el poder de determinar sobre la vida y la muerte de los felinos que habitan dentro de su jurisdicción administrativa. Nos preguntamos, ¿qué interés puede tener el NPS en impedir el diálogo público y en pretender coartar la libertad de expresión de la ciudadanía participante en una reunión convocada por la propia agencia? ¿Será, acaso, que el NPS no interesa escuchar la opinión del público sino simplemente aparentar que la tomará en cuenta? ¿Para qué insistir en la exclusividad de la expresión escrita e individual? Y, en contraste, ¿para qué impedir el diálogo abierto; el debate reflexivo; la duda sin artificios ni falsos miramientos; la crítica constructiva y, en fin, la oportunidad de compartir perspectivas y posiciones de manera honesta?</p> <p>Nadie sabe qué hará el NPS, si algo, con las expresiones escritas. Por el carácter premeditado de su negativa a abrirse al diálogo público y por la forma como se comportó esa noche, ponemos en tela de juicio la intensión de la reunión y, al mismo tiempo, el plan de exterminio de la colonia felina bajo sus dominios administrativos.</p> <p>No obstante, para subsanar esa primera impresión y promover un espíritu de buena fe entre quienes defendemos el derecho a existir de los gatos libres de San Juan y esta agencia federal que quiere matarlos, es preciso garantizar la transparencia del "proceso de planificación para atender el asunto de los gatos..."</p> <p>Una primera condición es que el NPS garantice que publicará todos los escritos que le sean sometidos en su página web, tal y como le son entregados, sin recortes arbitrarios ni ediciones que disfracen censuras.</p> <p>II. Análisis crítico sobre el plan de "manejo" genocida del NPS</p> <p>Para comprender el carácter atroz del asunto en ciernes es preciso abordarlo desde una perspectiva ética, es decir, arraigada en un compromiso de honestidad radical. En este ánimo, además de levantar sospechas bien fundadas, advertimos y denunciarnos que el principal objetivo del Plan de Manejo de Gatos Realengos del NPS es exterminar la comunidad de felinos libres que viven en el paseo del Morro. Se trata, pues, de un plan para implantar una política genocida -inmoral, injusta e injustificada- contra la colonia de gatos nativos que residen en los predios del "Sendero Recreativo Nacional Paseo del Morro".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que el "propósito" de su macabro plan es "atender" las poblaciones de "gatos realengos" que viven en los predios del paseo. <p>-La palabra "atender" es un eufemismo, y no debe crear falsas expectativas o ilusiones ingenuas. La intensión tácita del plan del NPS es deshacerse de manera absoluta de todos los gatos, atraparlos y exterminarlos. Se trata de un plan de naturaleza criminal. La retórica suave con la que se pretende encubrir esta política aberrante es reveladora del tipo de mentalidad perversa que la subyace, que la anima y que la mueve a considerar legítima y necesaria la masacre de la comuna de gatos sanjuaneros.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que la acción propuesta para la primera fase del plan de "manejo de gatos en libertad" sería la "remoción de gatos". A tal fin, "contrataría a una organización o

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>agencia profesional" para "removerlos" y que "usaría su mejor criterio profesional para gestionar la captura y el retiro humanitario de los gatos..."</p> <p>-La realidad que da al traste con la farsa de "remoción" propuesta por el NPS, es que en esta Isla no existen alternativas factibles de traslado o reubicación. Los refugios insulares están llenos a capacidad y es de común conocimiento que, lejos de ser centros de adopción efectivos son mataderos.</p> <p>-La verdad es que la palabra "remoción" es un eufemismo con el que el NPS encubre su intención de eliminar, sea como sea, la presencia de gatos en el sendero recreativo del Morro. Entre líneas se lee con claridad la voluntad genocida del NPS.</p> <p>-El NPS se desentiende de su responsabilidad sobre la suerte y vida de los gatos capturados y removidos, y la cede a la "agencia de remoción" que, en su lugar -a sabiendas de que no hay dónde reubicarlos y que el abandono de animales es ilegal en Puerto Rico- estaría a cargo de "sacrificarlos humanamente"; es decir, de exterminarlos...</p> <p>Tal es la perversidad que sostiene este plan del NPS, que no escatima en falsear la realidad, en exagerarla, en sacarla de proporción y de contexto, en fin, en mentir descaradamente para justificarse a sí mismo y crear así una fachada de razonabilidad que, sin embargo, se desmorona enseguida porque no soporta el peso de sus propias falsedades y mentiras:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que el "propósito" de su plan de exterminio de la comuna felina es "mejorar la experiencia y la seguridad de sus visitantes y empleados..."; y apunta que, de más de un millón de visitas anuales, "muchos visitantes se quejan de ver a los gatos", mientras que "otros" los disfrutan. <p>-Sin fundamento racional ni evidencia objetiva que lo sostenga, el NPS plantea que la sola existencia de los gatos sanjuaneros afecta o impacta negativamente la "experiencia" y la "seguridad" de los seres humanos que usamos y disfrutamos el espacio recreacional del paseo; y que, para garantizar una experiencia positiva y segura, es preciso exterminarlos.</p> <p>-Numerosas entrevistas a residentes insulares y turistas usuarios del paseo del Morro, así como centenares de comentarios, videos, fotografías, testimonios y expresiones ciudadanas en medios informativos y redes sociales, evidencian que son precisamente los gatos libres uno de los principales atractivos de ese paseo-parque recreativo; y la interacción pasiva o activa con paseantes de todas las edades está bien documentada como experiencia agradable y gratificante.</p> <p>*Las mismas fuentes desmienten el "propósito" y la "necesidad" del plan genocida del NPS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que su plan de exterminio de la comuna felina es "necesario" para "reducir los problemas de seguridad (...) asociados con los gatos realengos"; porque "los visitantes que se acercan a los gatos en libertad en el parque también pueden ser mordidos o arañados." <p>- No existe evidencia de caso alguno que justifique la falsa premisa del NPS. De haber registro de algún incidente aislado, éste debe considerarse en su particular contexto y no generalizar prejuicios infundados y malintencionados para "demonizar" la existencia de la</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>comuna felina y justificar su exterminio.</p> <p>- La verdad es que los gatos libres que habitan en los predios del paseo del Morro no representan ningún riesgo a la seguridad de sus usuarios, residentes o visitantes.</p> <p>-El uso premeditado de una retórica alarmista en el plan de exterminio del NPS es una modalidad de terrorismo discursivo, y cumple el objetivo de inculcar temores a la ciudadanía para, en el acto, manipularla a consentir y avalar las matanzas. En fin, decir que los gatos presentan problemas de seguridad es una mentira diseñada para infundir miedos imaginarios y provocar reacciones psicológicas que favorezcan -sin razón y por miedo- la alternativa genocida del NPS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que su plan de exterminio es "necesario" para "reducir los problemas de salud humana (...) asociadas con los gatos realengos." Sin fundamento confiable y veraz y con el fin tácito de generar temor y repulsión entre la ciudadanía y usuarios del paseo del Morro, plantea el NPS que "los gatos realengos pueden portar enfermedades que pueden transmitirse a los humanos y a la vida silvestre..." y que "...pueden infectarse con parásitos (...) que pueden transmitirse a los humanos a través de la ingestión accidental de tierra o heces contaminadas." <p>-Lo cierto es que no existe evidencia de caso alguno que justifique la política de asesinato en masa propuesta por el NPS. La especulación carece de mérito, es frívola e irresponsable. Además, promover el exterminio de la comuna de gatos (como cualquier otra especie de animales no-humanos) sobre la base de meros prejuicios o sospechosas motivaciones, es insostenible.</p> <p>- La verdad es que los gatos libres que habitan en los predios del paseo del Morro no representan ningún riesgo a la salud de sus usuarios. El plan genocida del NPS descontextualiza los conocimientos científicos sobre la naturaleza biológica de las especies animales que coexisten en los predios del paseo; distorsiona la realidad de las relaciones con los seres humanos mediante especulaciones frívolas y sospechosas; fabrica retóricamente problemas que no existen realmente y enseguida los saca de proporción, los exagera y dramatiza con el fin perverso de aterrorizar a la ciudadanía y justificar las matanzas...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que el "propósito" del plan de matanzas de los gatos libres del paseo del Morro es "proteger los recursos culturales..."; y plantea que dicho plan es "necesario" para "reducir los impactos (...) asociados con los gatos realengos." A tenor con su macabro plan de exterminio, plantea el NPS que "los gatos realengos (...) no son consistentes con el paisaje cultural..." <p>- Estas falsas afirmaciones carecen de sentido y coherencia, y responden a la intención de manipular los buenos sentimientos de la ciudadanía hacia los gatos libres de San Juan. Lo cierto es que la presencia de gatos en la ciudad capital en general así como en los predios del paseo del Morro, está fuertemente arraigada dentro del espectro cultural de lo puertorriqueño. Las manifestaciones de repudio al plan genocida del NPS y las expresiones en defensa de los gatos del paseo del Morro lo evidencian...</p> <p>- Tan es así que la legislación insular reconoce, reivindica y protege los derechos a existir de todas las especies animales que habitan esta Isla; incluyendo a los gatos, por supuesto, con los</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>que gran parte de este pueblo mantiene profundos lazos afectivos... Que el NPS o el gobierno federal estadounidense no lo comprendan, es asunto suyo. Su expresa ignorancia, sin embargo, sigue poniendo en riesgo la vida de la comunidad felina de San Juan...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que "los encuentros entre visitantes y gatos y el olor a orina y heces también son incompatibles con el paisaje cultural." <p>-La premisa, además de falsear la realidad de la experiencia entre paseantes y especies de animales que conviven en los predios del paseo del Morro, es incoherente. En primer lugar, porque la presencia felina es parte constitutiva del "paisaje cultural" en la ciudad de San Juan como en el resto de la Isla.</p> <p>-Por la ubicación geográfica del sendero recreativo del Morro y las condiciones medioambientales en que se enmarca, el flujo constante de vientos marinos y las lluvias diarias, minimizan el efecto de los olores de orina, concentrados, si acaso, en las pequeñas áreas donde los gatos se concentran a comer...</p> <p>-Además, nada positivo a esta Isla, al mundo o a la humanidad, se desprende de la intolerancia que proyecta y promueve el NPS; que justifica las matanzas de gatos por razón de puras changuerías.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que los esfuerzos organizados para el control natal de la población de gatos han sido infructuosos, porque "nuevos gatos llegan a la colonia de otras poblaciones"; porque se han visto algunas gatas preñadas y nuevas crías, y algunos gatos domésticos son liberados allí, por lo que procede su propuesta de "remoción" genocida... <p>-Durante casi 20 años una organización de ciudadanos voluntarios (Save a Gato) ha asumido el cuidado y protección de la población felina en los predios del Morro, los alimenta con sus propios recursos y practica el método de captura, esterilización y/o castración (y vacunación) para devolverlos a su hábitat en libertad. Aunque el NPS lo niegue, esta práctica es efectiva, pues elimina las posibilidades de reproducción y controla significativamente el crecimiento poblacional, minimiza las peleas y, entre otras cosas, facilita las posibilidades de adopción. No obstante, el NPS, en lugar de procurar financiamiento federal para el bienestar de la colonia de gatos, reprocha viciosamente que el programa de Save a Gato es inefectivo, y promueve suplantarle con su política de exterminio...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que el "propósito" del plan de matanzas de los gatos libres del paseo del Morro incluye "proteger los recursos naturales..."; y plantea que dicho plan es "necesario" para "reducir los impactos (...) asociados con los gatos realengos." <p>-Lo cierto es que esta premisa no solo es inconsecuente por su falsedad sino que el NPS ni siquiera aborda el tema dentro del saco de remilgos que integran su plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que su plan genocida está "de acuerdo con las políticas existentes para el manejo de especies invasoras"; y que es "necesario" para "cumplir" y "reducir los impactos (...) para las especies de vida silvestre nativas asociadas con los gatos realengos." Especula el NPS -sin fundamento objetivo e irresponsablemente- que los gatos contribuyen a la extinción de especies, porque "son indiscriminados en lo que matan, y a menudo son asesinos excedentes, no siempre comen lo que matan."

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>-Lo cierto es que miente nuevamente el NPS, pues los gatos son parte de las especies nativas; y si rastreamos sus genealogías posiblemente confirmaremos que habitan en esta Isla antes de que se forjara la identidad puertorriqueña y, ciertamente antes de la invasión estadounidense. Las relaciones entre las diversas especies que coexisten en los predios del paseo del Morro pertenecen a la naturaleza de las mismas y nada, absolutamente nada, podemos hacer para cambiarlas a gusto y gana. Además, no existe prueba alguna que evidencie la peligrosidad innata de los gatos del paseo, y mucho menos evidencia de que esté en riesgo alguna otra especie animal que cohabite o merodee por el lugar. Es la comuna felina de San Juan la que está en peligro de extinción, pero no por depredadores naturales sino por la brutalidad atroz de la agencia federal que la patrocina...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expone falsamente el NPS que las siete estaciones de alimentación, distribuidas en un tramo de casi una milla, "no son consistentes con el paisaje cultural"; y propone eliminarlas después de capturar y "remover" los gatos. • Expone falsamente el NPS que las estaciones de alimentación "atraen ratas" y que sus censos "han mostrado que las ratas se alimentan junto a los gatos." <p>-El NPS, en su desesperación por justificar su compulsión asesina, se contradice cuando alega que los gatos, por su propia naturaleza, "contribuyen a la extinción de especies" y que "son indiscriminados en lo que matan..."; y, sin embargo, "las ratas se alimentan junto a los gatos."</p> <p>- Lo cierto es que es más probable que un estudio serio revele que la presencia de gatos en la zona del paseo contribuye a la reducción de la población de ratas. Sin embargo, el valor de la existencia de esta comuna felina no depende ni un ápice de su valor de uso para el NPS.</p> <p>-Además, plantear que la presencia de gatos y de estaciones de alimentos deben eliminarse porque otros animales se las ingenian para alimentarse, es, de facto, una frivolidad...</p> <p>III. Conclusión preliminar y sugerencias</p> <p>El Plan de Manejo de Gatos Realengos (PMGR) del National Park Service (NPS) se caracteriza por su marcada carencia de información veraz y de datos objetivos confiables que sostengan la necesidad de exterminar a la comunidad de gatos libres que viven en los predios del paseo del Morro. Para justificar la "remoción" y consecuente exterminio de esta comunidad felina, el plan del NPS no ha escatimado en distorsionar la realidad y suplantar los conocimientos científicos por prejuicios, exageraciones y retóricas de miedo que, en lugar de dar luz sobre el asunto, se convierte en un gran chantaje psicológico para atraer complicidades hacia su política genocida. El NPS ha creado un falso problema e inculcado temores con el fin de manipular a la ciudadanía para que el miedo y no la razón justique el atroz negocio de las matanzas de los gatos libres de San Juan.</p> <p>Fabricar argumentos que generen confusión y desprecio hacia los animales no-humanos es contrario al espíritu de las leyes regentes en el estado de derecho de Puerto Rico. Hacerlo no solo viola la legislación insular sino que, al mismo tiempo, incita al maltrato, a la violencia y la crueldad contra los animales.</p> <p>Dentro de este tétrico escenario y en oposición al plan de remoción/exterminio del NPS,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>proponemos:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Que el NPS retire de inmediato el actual Plan de Manejo de Gatos Realengos; se retracte públicamente; y se comprometa a garantizar la estancia, seguridad y bienestar de los gatos que habitan en los predios del paseo del Morro... 2. Que el paseo del Morro y sus alrededores, donde vive la comuna felina, sea declarado, reconocido y respetado como santuario de las especies de animales no-humanos que coexisten ahí... 3. Que de aquí en adelante, el NPS se comprometa a estudiar y respetar el espíritu y contenido de las declaraciones protectoras de los derechos universales de los animales y, en particular, la política pública y legislaciones afines en el estado de derecho puertorriqueño. 4. Que todos los escritos sometidos al NPS como parte del proceso en torno al PMGR sean publicados en su página oficial sin censura.
1818	<p>"How a society treats its most vulnerable is always the measure of its humanity." Statement by Ambassador Matthew Rycroft of the UK Mission to the UN at the Security Council Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict</p> <p>"La forma en que una sociedad trata a sus más vulnerables es siempre la medida de su humanidad".</p> <p>Declaración del Embajador Matthew Rycroft de la Misión del Reino Unido ante la ONU en el Debate Abierto del Consejo de Seguridad sobre los Niños y los Conflictos Armados</p>
1819	<p>These cats are part of Old San Juan. If the amount of cats is becoming uncomfortable maybe neutering them would be a better idea than killing them for God's sake.</p>
1820	<p>NO MATEN A LOS GATOS, yo puedo aceptar dos en mi casa. Actually no tengo ninguno.</p>
1821	<p>ES INHUMANO QUE MATEN A ESTOS GATITOS QUE NO LE HAVEN DAÑO A NADA NI A NADIE.</p>
1822	<p>I have visited Puerto Rico several times and one of our favorite things to do is visit with the cats of Old San Juan. This is a major travesty that the park is talking about removing the cats. If this does happen we will not be back to Puerto Rico. We believe in taking care of the animals and not hurting them. The park has become their place as much as it is ours. I don't see the harm in them. Cats were actually brought there to help control the rodent issue so what is the park thinking here? Would you rather have a bunch of rats roaming around? The cats are a major piece of Old San Juan and they carry historical significance. Please rethink this stance and keep the cats there. I am sure many others enjoy visiting the cats when they are visiting.</p>
1823	<p>SAVE THE CATS IN PR</p>
1824	<p>El gobierno debería de dar el dinero necesario para que este tipo de organizaciones sigan haciendo su trabajo de manera humanitaria y con amor. Actualmente, todos los albergues y santuarios están repletos y apenas dan abastos. Todo esto con donaciones del pueblo y ayuda de voluntarios, no del gobierno. La situación con el abandono animal esta por los cielos en este país porque no se toman las medidas necesarias y estrictas para hacer valer la ley y para colmo, volvemos al mismo tema, EL GOBIERNO NO AYUDA EN NADA A LAS ORGANIZACIONES DE RESCATES DE ANIMALES Y/O SANTUARIOS. Esto es un</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>asesinato lo que quieren hacer con estas criaturas que no le hacen daño a nadie y soy testigo que cada visitante le emociona ver a estos animalitos y conocer sobre Save a Gato.</p> <p>¡Que viva Save a Gato y para abajo este gobierno/sistema)</p>
1825	<p>Saludos, los gatos no merecen que los maten. Ellos son animales amorosos y hacen de nuestra visita a el viejo San Juan mas placentera. Ellos mantienen el control de las ratas y otros animalitos.</p>
1826	<p>Creo que existen mejores soluciones que el simplemente matar a estos animales inofensivos. Estos gatitos ya son parte de la comunidad, en la gran mayoría del tiempo tambien son razones de ir a Viejo San Juan a visitar. Tengo amistades estadounidense que han venido a visitar y an ido a VSJ solamente para ir a ver a los gatitos. Las organizaciones, rescatistas y residentes hacen lo posible por cuidarlos. Desafortunadamente, muchos animales crecidos en la calle no son adoptables, pero para eso existe el TNR. Estas organizaciones y voluntarios podrian hacer mucho mas si recibieran la ayuda, respaldo y fondos del gobierno. Estos gatitos no pueden advocar por ellos mismos, escuchen a los que si podemos hacerlo.</p>
1827	<p>Los gatos embellecen y cuidan del Viejo San Juan. Deben ser protegidos.</p>
1828	<p>Como parte del plan que someten no debe ser la remocion sino la educacion. En la isal el mayor es problema es la sobre poblacion de animales quitarlos del esa area conlleva que luego personas tiren mas gatos y seguir crean nuevas colonias. Sin embargo la edaucacion y el control de la poblacion (TNR) seria mas efectivo, junto a vigilanci extrema para que persona son conciencia y compasion sigan a vandonando animales. Las leyes estan pero los municipios y gobiernos son muy compasivos a la hora de ejecutar contra el maltrato y ababndono de animales</p>
1829	<p>To whomever it may concern, I do not support or approve the removal of the free-ranging cats in Viejo San Juan. They are a deep part of our culture and have been around since our grandparents were children and have bothered no one. These cats have always been cared by the community of Old San Juan and other animal help groups/organizations. These cats are very nice to everyone, there have been no aggressions of any cat towards a human, most of these cats have been sterilized or spayed, vaccinated and sometimes even bathed. Besides that, I cannot express the joy I personally feel every time I go to Old San Juan and stumble upon one of these healthy and happy cats. Not just me, but a lot of young adults who hang around Old San Juan absolutely adore those cats. There is a lot of happiness those cats bring to people and visitors of Old San Juan that would be wrongfully taken away if the cats were removed. There are a number of alarming things to actually worry and fix about Old San Juan, none of these include the cats, who do not bother anybody and are not causing the streets to be dirty. People cause VSJ to be dirty. These cats have their rightful space, food, and even litter boxes which the community in Old San Juan has provided for them out of their own care, love and money. These cats are important to the culture and very much loved by everyone who has VSJ imprinted on their childhood, it would be devastating if these cats are removed and for such happiness to end.</p>
1830	<p>Why remove them? What have they done? They claim they're removing them because it's a historic place but whenever someone goes and pees al over El Morro it's not a big deal. For them trash, pee and even uncanny thing that have been done do not affect the historic monument but a few harmless cats do??? Please, it doesn't even make sense. It's infuriating. It's indignant. It just shows the lack of love and empathy for animals in this country. Please, please don't touch those cats. They have done nothing wrong. They look prettier sitting there than any of the colonial architecture there.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1831	<p data-bbox="321 260 734 296">Good day to whom it may concern,</p> <p data-bbox="321 327 1419 527">I am a volunteer with Save A Gato and have volunteered with the El Morro volunteers a few times trapping. I have been a weekly volunteer with Save A Gato for 2 years. This inquiry is in response to the San Juan National Historic Site Free-Ranging Cat Management Plan that is presented by the National Park Service. I understand that the main concerns are human health and safety concerns, improve visitor experience, alleviate nuisance issues, and reduce impacts to cultural resources and native wildlife species associated with free-ranging cats.</p> <p data-bbox="321 562 740 598">Human Health and Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="321 632 1419 898"> <p>•Toxoplasmosis: A cat becomes infected by ingestion of rodents, birds, or infected soil. The cat can then transmit Toxoplasmosis to humans if the human ingests it from the cat. This happens from direct fecal matter or infected soil, which could have been infected by rodents, birds or other small animals, not only cats. Cats are not the only species to blame for this, and they are less likely carriers of Toxoplasmosis in comparison to rodents, whom cats hunt. Proper hand washing can prevent and elevate this. Reference: CDC - Toxoplasmosis - Epidemiology & Risk Factors</p> <li data-bbox="321 932 1419 1297"> <p>•Rabies: The last documented case of rabies in Puerto Rico was 2015, which was transmitted to human from a West Indian Mongoose. West Indian Mongoose in Puerto Rico are responsible for over 50% of all rabies cases. Before that case, the last infection was in 2003, where a dog bite transmitted the virus. Later through testing, it was discovered that the dog was infected by a West Indian Mongoose. Cats are not a threat to contract or transmit rabies, especially since all cats are vaccinated against rabies during TNR. I could not find one case in Puerto Rico where a cat transmitted rabies to a human. Reference: Human Rabies — Puerto Rico, 2015 MMWR (cdc.gov) -Cases of rabies in humans in the United States and Puerto Rico,... Download Table (researchgate.net)</p> <li data-bbox="321 1331 1419 1570"> <p>•Bartonellosis: Bartonellosis is spread to cats from fleas. It can then be transmitted to humans from a cat scratch. There is no evidence that fleas or ticks can spread this directly to humans. Through preventative flea medication given during TNR, this can be prevented. Also, if people respect free-ranging cat's space and don't chase them, there is not reason for a cat to be threaten, which leads to aggression to protect themselves. Reference: Home Bartonella CDC.</p> <li data-bbox="321 1604 1419 1906"> <p>•Plague: The bacteria that cause the plague is Yersinia Pestis, which is transmitted by an infected flea bite. As rodents die, the fleas need another host. Those fleas can find a host in a cat or jump onto a human and bite them as well. Cats becoming hosts can be prevented using preventatives given during TNR. Additionally, those preventatives don't just deter the fleas from cats, they kill the fleas. If you remove the cats from El Morro, there still will be the fleas. In fact, an increase in fleas, because the rodents are going to increase, and they are the ideal flea host. Reference: Ecology and Transmission Plague CDC</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>•Flea-Borne Typhus: Flea-borne Typhus is rare in the United States. Fleas are infected from biting an infected host. An infected flea then transmits it to humans by biting them. Again, preventatives for fleas that are given during TNR will prevent this. There will still be fleas without cats. Fleas will find other hosts. Reference: Flea-borne (murine) typhus Typhus Fevers CDC</p> <p>•Roundworm and Hookworm: Roundworm infections occur by ingestion of infected soil, sand, or plants, which are contaminated by infected animal feces. Hookworm infections occur by penetration of the skin, such as people walking on contaminated soil or sand. These can be prevented by hand hygiene and wearing shoes when walking in public places. Not to mention hookworms and roundworms are common hosts in Iguanas and Lizards, which are abundantly found along El Morro and throughout Puerto Rico. Removal of cats will not solve this health concern. There far are more Iguanas and Lizards in El Morro than cats. Reference: CDC - Roundworms & Hookworms</p> <p>•Bitten and Scratched: The National Park Service brings up that "Visitors could be bitten or scratched". I researched online and cannot find any supporting documentation of these alleged actions. Cats only become aggressive if they are threatened and fear something. Most commonly this occurs between two unneutered males. TNR can prevent this by neutering them. Otherwise, the cats of El Morro don't have any threats apart from humans that could mistreat them. From experience with trapping in El Morro for TNR, the cats always run away from humans if they feel threatened by them. They have so many bushes and rocks to find a safe haven. So, unless a human is really tormenting the free-ranging cats, there is no threat of a cat biting or scratching humans. Reference: Aggression in Cats ASPCA</p> <p>Improve Visitor Experience and Alleviate Nuisance Issues</p> <p>The only inconvenience or annoyances that the National Park Service and/or Visitors have stated are about the smells. The smell is not only of the cats, it also largely has to do with the large Iguana's (oftentimes larger than cats) and their feces. Additionally, during low tide along El Morro the odors of rotting algae, mussels, barnacles, seaweed, and any other aquatic life that gets washed up in between the rocks and bakes in the hot sun will be present. The smell can resemble sulfur, a rotten egg smell, and can be unbearable. Removal of the cats will not fix the smells. Unfortunately, not all of nature's smells are pleasant. I imagine Elk, Bison, and Bear feces in Yellowstone National Park don't smell all that good either, but we aren't removing those animals.</p> <p>Reduce Impacts to Cultural Resources and Native Wildlife Species Associated with Free-Ranging Cats</p> <p>The feeding stations are presumed by the National Park Service as interrupting its cultural resources and visitors complain about seeing them. I have personally been to all the stations, and all the feeding stations are concealed behind bushes or structures. The only way to see them is if visitors go off the trail, which they shouldn't, because then they are disrupting the</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>native wildlife species as well. The feeding stations cause no issues apart from attracting other animals: birds, rodents, and bugs. Feeding stations could be constructed better to allow access only for cats, and with more volunteers and financial assistance they could be better maintained. A decrease in feeding stations is already underway, with two removed. A continuous decrease in feeding stations is reasonable. This would prompt the free-ranging cats to reduce more of the rodent and lizard population that are abundant there too. Additionally, a lot of visitors and locals take pleasure in feeding and interacting with the cats. Visitors and locals feeding the cats is something that cannot be control and never will be.</p> <p>Pros of Cats</p> <p>The cats eat lizards, oriental cockroaches, mice, rats, and birds. I have even seen them get crabs and other sea life that is left among the rocks during low tide. Taking away the cats in that area is going to allow an increase in all those other species, which in turn is going to through off the ecosystem.</p> <p>TNR will provide cats with being spayed/neutered, rabies vaccine, FVRCP vaccine, preventative flea and tick treatment, medical attention if indicated (case by case, if they are sick or injured) and an ear tip as a means of tagging them so that we know they are TNR. Females will no longer be able to have offspring. Male will calm down, not be territorial, no spraying, and cannot fertilize females. Vaccines will prevent disease. Preventatives will kill tick and fleas. Medication will make them better. TNR is a perfect solution that allows for the cats to live freely to a full life.</p> <p>The struggles with TNR and why it isn't making a noticeable difference in El Morro is due to the difficulties of trapping in El Morro and ignorant people that continue to abandon cats. The struggles we face of trapping in El Morro are access, time, and resources. Volunteers will arrive to trap at 0430 in the morning and the gate will be locked, even though National Park Service is notified in advance that we are coming, acknowledged us, but still didn't grant us access. There is a small window of trapping time. Cats are crepuscular, meaning they are most active at dusk and dawn. Dusk is an impossible time to trap cats for TNR due to the abundance of tourist and joggers, which scare the cats and visitors that feed the cats during the daytime. Dawn is the perfect time, which is why it is essential we trap at those early hours. However, how can we trap if access is not granted to us? Resources are something that we have always struggled with. We sincerely lack reliable volunteers and help from the community. There are only two trappers in all of Old San Juan, myself included, and less than a handful that trap at El Morro when we are able to trap there. We lack the availability for appointments for TNR with local veterinarians. At the most we get 10 appointments every Monday, but the cats need to be transported to and from there. Then they must be taken back to the trap site and released. This is a two day event. There is one volunteer that does this constantly, using her own gas and vehicle. More volunteers to help with this could increase performance and the amount of TNRs completed. Lastly, abandonment, which is an ongoing problem that will never end. We get one colony in Old San Juan completely under control, and someone comes along and abandons more unneutered/spayed cats, instantly the colony is at risk of multiply. Some of these cats migrate to El Morro before we have the chance to TNR them. Abandonment is something that is always going to occur in Old San Juan.</p> <p>Removal of the Cats</p> <p>By removing all cats more will move in. It is proven that this is only a temporary solution to</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>decrease the population. This is known as the Vacuum Effect and occurs when a portion of an animal population is permanently removed from their home range. "When a space is empty, nature will fill it". Each time cats are removed; the population will rebound to fill that niche. Additionally, the catching and removal cats from free-ranging colonies is futile. It is expensive without long-term solutions. Whereas, TNR stabilizes populations, is humane, and nonprofit/ volunteer based. Even after removal of all feeding stations, cats will reoccupy because they are good scavengers with the supply of insects, rodents, and lizards there, not to mention food waste in trash cans. It would also be an emotional and mental distressed for the community. The majority of people in Old San Juan are proud of the cats and the history. Many visitors enjoy them and look forward to seeing them. Animals are known to have positive health impacts on people such as calming effects, decrease in blood pressure, and lowering stress levels. Removal of the cats will make the National Park Service appear as though it has no value to life to those cats and that they are just throwing them away like garbage. TNR can be successful and satisfying.</p> <p>Reference: The Vacuum Effect Alley Cat Allies Reference: Pros, cons of feral and free-ranging cat management debated American Veterinary Medical Association (avma.org)</p> <p>My recommendation is installation of hand washing stations throughout El Morro to decrease not only zoonotic disease but also flu, covid, mycoplasma and more. Education is key. Control populations, and prompt sterilization. The public need to be educated on the importance of spaying and neutering their pets. Save A Gato is completely non-profit. The Vice President, Irma, volunteers there every day, most days all day. She doesn't get paid. No one puts in as much time there as her. It would be beneficial if a paying job for her at Save A Gato could be sponsored.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Very respectfully,</p>
1832	<p>Leave those cats alone. They have been there for years and they dont bother anyone. Tourist are in love with them. In all the time I ran in el Pase la Princesa I never felt pee odor. NEVER. But I really do feel a mile away HUMAN pee odor from the garitas. Why dont you do something about that one?? These cata are sterilized and vaccinated, so there is no risk to public health. And they help control the rat population. Those cats belong there. Leave them alone.</p>
1833	<p>We are very much against your proposal to "humanely remove" the cats that are currently being cared for by Save a Gato. This organization is doing a great service for the feline community. They provide vaccinations, shelter, and a safe environment for these cats. To remove them would be a travesty. This organization has a great deal of support from both the citizens of Puerto Rico and the United States alike. by allowing this organization to continue to care for these animals, the animals are providing a service to Puerto Rico as well. They are natural mousers and ratters. Please reconsider.</p>
1834	<p>Los gatos llevan años en San Juan , están esterilizados y vacunados. Contribuyen con la propagación de plagas como ratas y demás sabandijas. Los vecinos los alimentan y otras personas van a alimentarlos. No están enfermos, ni son un problema de salud para San Juan , ni sus residentes. Allí está la fundación Save Gato y tienen esos gatos bien cuidados....no le hacen daño a nadie.</p> <p>Como es posible que quieran eutanizarlos. Sería un acto criminal.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1835	Please don't allow these beautiful innocent babies to be killed! I understand what an animal is out of control and harms a human however these babies are doing nothing wrong but living a life.
1836	Human beings today are disconnected from nature, they see animals as things, not as living beings, who feel the same as us. What makes us superior to humans? If we were created by the same omnipotent being. This need to eliminate or remove these kittens from that place seems aberrational to me. There is no need, if there is an organization that is willing to help why prevent it. No to animal abuse. Human beings are the species that will lead us to extinction. How sad
1837	Son necesarios y amados por los demás.
1838	Theres no way WE, BORICUAS, are going to allow you to take actions over the cats or our community SAN JUAN. There's a lot of other national parks around the island that needs restoration and you have the responsibility to preserve them. There's no need to kill cats for profit. STOP THIS DISRESPECTFUL PROYECT NOW. !
1839	No cat euthanasia!
1840	<p>To whom it might concern,</p> <p>I among many other Puerto Rican citizens, am absolutely appalled by the pending proposal to [possibly] exterminate our meandering cat population in Old San Juan, even more so after witnessing neighborhood and Save a Gato's constant efforts to care & look after them. They are a part of the fabric of our old town (culturally, emotionally and physically) and are moreover rodent killers.</p> <p>I can not help thinking about the dangers of gentrification and exterior prejudices influencing... these matters. I whole heartedly implore be thoughtfully examined and redirected toward so many other issues that plague the island and the few local non privatized parks we have left.</p> <p>While we might envision have to envision other ways of accommodating and feeding the cats per the documentation presented on here, I wholeheartedly believe extermination is out of the question. Save a Gatos jurisprudence on this matter should be of utmost consideration.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sincerly,</p>
1841	If you remove the cats Viejo San Juan will become infested with rats. Neuter them instead.
1842	Before there were cats in Old San Juan there were countless rats patrolling the cobblestoned streets. My grandmother lived during that era in Old San Juan where she recounts the pest that the rats were. Filth and death is what she recounts during those days. She lost a close friend because of leptospirosis. Then came the cats to take care of the problem rats were controlled and lives were saved. Should the cats be gone the rats will come in masses. Also Old San Juan will lose part of its charm. I am a dog guy but I have to say that when I lost my cat, rats appeared in my house within 2 weeks. I wonder why.
1843	I oppose the removal of cats. They have been taken care by Save Agato well. They have bring joy to so many people. They warm the hearts of tourists and locals.
1844	<p>Saludos y gracias por la oportunidad de comentar sobre la propuesta.</p> <p>Los gatos del Viejo San Juan son parte de sus ciudadanos. Aportan a ella de muchas</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>maneras; control de plagas, apoyo emocional a los seres humanos que disfrutamos de su existencia y compañía, embellecimiento del paisaje, atracción turística (desde hace mucho lo son y gente de todo el mundo que documenta sus visitas a nuestra ciudad amurallada comenta mayormente con agrado sobre su presencia)... Pero estas son todas razones que nos convienen a los seres humanos, que habitamos el espacio y de muchas maneras lo explotamos para nuestra conveniencia, no siempre respetando su integridad.</p> <p>Tenemos responsabilidad de velar por la salud y calidad de vida de quienes habitan o visitan la ciudad. Se observa en la propuesta que nos convoca al alegado problema de sobrepoblación felina en Viejo San Juan como &quot;algo que se eliminaría eliminando los gatos&quot;, y eso no es del todo cierto. Sin siquiera tomar en cuenta como crecerían exponencialmente otras poblaciones animales indeseables con la salida de los gatos de un panorama lleno de restaurantes, otros negocios y basura por doquier, debemos tener claro que dicha sobrepoblación animal vá mas allá de su frecuente instinto por aparearse. Esto pues la presencia de gatos en Viejo San Juan y todo Puerto Rico responde en gran parte a la irresponsabilidad de personas que en algún momento los tuvieron de mascotas y no procuraron su esterilización para controlar la población realmente.</p> <p>Save a Gato, organización que creo merece el apoyo directo de su agencia, hace una gran gestión combatiendo esta problemática. Sin embargo, Save a Gato no puede resolver ni necesariamente prevenir que gente irresponsable decida hacer del Viejo San Juan su tiradero de gatos no deseados. Los gatos de la muralla y de todo el Viejo San Juan en su mayoría llegaron porque una persona los dejó allí a ellos o sus ancestros. Es la razón por la cual la población sigue creciendo y es algo que, a menos que vuelvan a amurallar la ciudad, controlando el tránsito que la misma recibe de toda la isla, no van a poder evitar fácilmente. Entonces, ¿la política del trato hacia estos animales del Servicio de Parques Nacionales será siempre la de &quot;removerlos&quot;? No me parece lo más humano, ni lo más responsable socialmente, como ciudadana que reconoce la pertinencia de estos animales en ese espacio, ¡en nuestro planeta! Como seres humanos debemos buscar formas de convivir con estos seres, tratándolos responsablemente y sin que esto signifique su eliminación de nuestro entorno.</p> <p>Exhorto a que, más que permanecer en un Status Quo, el Servicio de Parques Nacionales colabore para que como sociedad encontremos formas de manejar los problemas que derivan esta situación respetando la vida. Lo hago sobre todo teniendo en cuenta que el problema lo creamos los mismos seres humanos.</p>
1845	<p>Ever since I was a kid the cats residing in Old San Juan have been a staple of every visit. These cats are not only residents of the area but are also a landmark of the place. Little has been said about why this measure has been proposed and when officials were questioned at the meeting held on november 2 at 6:30 pm, they could not give a proper answer nor did they have the data to back up the reasons as to why these cats need to be removed. The cat colony in Old San Juan is taken care of mostly by the non-profit organization Saveagato which makes sure these cats are fed, vaccinated and neutered. The allegations that these cats are a health hazard, and a danger to the fauna are backed up by no research at all. In fact removing them would only lend itself to a rat plague to take its place not to mention this would not solve the deeper issue which is animal abandonment.</p>
1846	<p>Greetings</p> <p>As an animal advicate i want tontell younthat cats are the best animals to control plagues in</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Old San Juan Area. They have demonstrated no harm to the visitors. Quite the opposite, people love gathering there for the cats. People have adopted them and give them food. There are other ways to take care of the cats like making an event to adopt the cats, killing them will be really inhumane and will have no positive effects on the San Juan administration and also You people.
1847	Please save the kitties! They saved us!
1848	<p>Saludos, me opongo a la remocion de los gatos residentes del Viejo San Juan.</p> <p>Desde que naci soy residente de san juan y actualmente albergo un gato rescatado en mi hogar. Conozco de primera mano que son animales que al ser vacunados y esterilizados no crean riesgo alguno a la sociedad, especialmente cuando cuentan con organizaciones como Save a Gato, que se encarga de su esterilización, vacunación, alimentación y cuidado.</p> <p>Es reconocido por la comunidad científica que los gatos son los predadores principales de las ratas. Es conocido en todo el mundo que donde hay comida y basura, hay ratas. Las ratas, por su parte, si transmiten enfermedades como la leptospirosis u otras. Conozco de primera mano que donde hay ratas, hay orin de ratas, cosa que puede causarle la muerte a cualquier persona que ande descalza por el viejo san juan. Hay que ser realista, al viejo san juan van turistas en chancletas y hasta una pequeña abertura en la piel podría causarle contagio a cualquier humano.</p> <p>En los últimos dos anos me he dado la tarea de visitar el viejo san juan al menos una vez a la semana. En mis visitas, en ningún momento encontré a turista alguno quejándose de los gatos. Al contrario, ante mis preguntas, muchos de los turistas reconocieron que alrededor del mundo cada día son mas las ciudades que se han encargado de rescatar, cuidar, esterilizar y vacunar a los gatos que viven en sus tierras. Puerto Rico no tiene que ser la excepción.</p> <p>Es correcto que la población felina ha crecido exponencialmente a través de los anos. Sin embargo, se debe al abandono de gatos en el área por personas de alrededor de la isla. No podemos permitir que por personas irresponsables se menoscabe la gran labor de Save a Gato. Es por esto que propongo que se continúen llevando a cabo vistas publicas donde se pueda llegar a soluciones REALES, como lo son multas, programas de envio de felinos a otros estados, alianzas con grupos rescatistas, etc.. Remover a los gatos significaría el comienzo de una plaga innecesaria (ver Washington, DC, para que vean lo que pasaria si los sacan, la población de ratas es casi 10x la población de personas viviendo en el distrito) que a largo plazo causaría un problema de salud publica. No seamos el único lugar en el mundo que no supimos usar nuestros gatos para el bien de nuestros ciudadanos y turistas que nos visitan.</p>
1849	Please allow the cat colony to remain at Paseo del Morro. Saveagato has done an enormous public service by getting these cats fixed and cared for over the past 20 years. It would be a shame to discourage efforts like this to hold down the cat population. It is almost impossible to relocate a cat colony. Also, the tourists love the cats.
1850	¡Saludos! soy Rescatista Independiente. Estoy de acuerdo con que se trabaje con todas las colonias de gatos y animales de nuestras calles pero de forma compasiva y con mucho amor. Esto es, además de alimentar debemos vacunar y esterilizar para evitar la sobrepoblación que a su vez lo que trae es solo el sufrimiento de ellos. Podemos hacer mucho si trabajamos en equipo. ¡Basta ya de que sean siempre ellos los que paguen con su vida nuestra falta de compromiso, empatía y acción!
1851	By allowing the cats to be fed and cared for, the city has created a moral obligation to continue this work. Euthanizing these animals would be a crime. Come up with a better solution.
1852	I absolutely loved the cats in Old San Juan. Most were friendly and didn't bother us. They make the area very charming. I can't wait to visit again and see them.

Corr ID	Correspondence
1853	<p>Greetings, thanks for the opportunity to comment on the proposal.</p> <p>Old San Juan cats are part of the city. They contribute in many ways such as pest control, emotional support to humans who enjoy their company, landscape beautification, and tourist attraction (they have been for a long time and people from all over the world who vlog our city mostly comment with pleasure on their presence). But these are reasons that suit us human beings, who inhabit the space and in many ways exploit it for our convenience, not always respecting its integrity.</p> <p>We are responsible for ensuring the health and quality of life of those who inhabit and visit the city. At the proposal that summons us, the alleged problem of feline overpopulation in Old San Juan is seen as "something that would be eliminated by eliminating the cats", and that's not entirely true. Without even taking into account how other undesirable animal populations would grow exponentially with the departure of cats from a landscape full of restaurants, other businesses, and garbage everywhere, we must be clear that said animal overpopulation goes beyond their frequent instinct to mate. This is because the presence of cats in Old San Juan and all of Puerto Rico dramatically responds to the irresponsibility of people who at some point had them as pets and did not sterilize them to control the population.</p> <p>Save a Gato, an organization that I believe deserves direct support from the NPS does a great job fighting this problem. However, Save a Gato cannot necessarily prevent irresponsible people from making Old San Juan their dumping ground for unwanted cats. The cats from the wall and all over Old San Juan mostly arrived because a person left them or their ancestors there. It is why the population continues to grow and it is something that, unless we re-wall the city, controlling the traffic it receives from the entire island, we will not be able to easily avoid. So, will the National Park Service's policy of treating these animals always be to "remove" them? For me, it doesn't seem the most humane, nor the most socially responsible thing to do, especially as a person who recognizes the pertinence of these animals in that space, on our planet! As people we must find ways to live with these beings, treating them responsibly and without this meaning their elimination from our environment.</p> <p>I urge that, rather than remaining in a status quo, the National Park Service collaborates so that as a society we find ways to manage the problems that arise from this situation while respecting life. I do it, especially considering the problem is mainly created by human beings.</p>
1854	<p>si dejan las palomas que cagan y hacen de todo al igual las iguanas porque quieren matar a los gatitos que son seres no es justo que los maten</p>
1855	<p>As a cat owner, i am disappointed and broken hearted. Cats are self sufficient and independent.</p> <p>There is absolutely nothing to justify the killing of innocent cats!!! This is an outcry and outrageous to imagine that anyone would want to hurt such precious animals. Shame on you puerto Rico PR.</p> <p>Here in the main land there are thousands of stray cats throughout the city of New York and everybody tries to help them by feeding them and caring for them as much as possible!! But there is NO Extermination of these precious lives.</p> <p>I plead with you PUERTO RICO Do Not Hurt the Cats!!</p> 

Corr ID	Correspondence
1856	<p>If you really are concerned about the safety and health of the visitors in Old San Juan, then do something about the homeless population and the drug addicts that hang around the area. This whole plan is unnecessary and does not address the real, critical issues affecting OSJ.</p>
1857	<p>All the cats in Viejo San Juan are a positive and beloved part of our community. Never have they been shown to bother, endanger, or otherwise negatively affect the quality of life in the neighborhood, in fact quite the opposite. Our cats greatly help keep the rodent population under control, they bring life to our plazas and alleys, and joy to every and all locals and tourists that stop to pet, count, play and share pictures and videos of our cats, thereby presenting our community in a positive way as an animal friendly tourist destination. Simply discussing the idea of removing the cats is unnecessary, inhumane, pointless and unjustified.</p> <p>Our cats are an important part of Viejo San Juan's identity and culture, and so must be protected and cared for by residents and official municipality employees.</p>
1858	<p>I currently live in Pittsburgh, PA and recently visited San Juan, as I have family living there. In Pittsburgh, I work at an Animal Shelter called Animal Friends. Not only are we a no-kill, non-profit shelter, but we have an active involvement in our surround communities and help to facilitate programs such as TNR for cats, as well as a working-cat program.</p> <p>When I visited San Juan, I was so happy to learn that the stray cats we encountered on our adventures were already active in the TNR program. These cats were extremely sweet, approachable, and I was overjoyed to make so many outdoor feline pals. They do not deserve to be murdered at the hands of people who simply do not like the way that a TNR program "looks".</p> <p>These are living, breathing creatures that have the same right to live as you or I do, and should be treated with respect in their own current habitat. The human equivalent to this would be like saying we should euthanize all the homeless humans in New York because we do not like they way they "look" while we are going about our day. Of course, this would be completely barbaric and ridiculous, and this is the Puerto Rican equivalent.</p> <p>If you decide to go through with this, myself, my family, and our friends will no longer travel to PR, as we refuse to support unnecessary euthanasia.</p>
1859	<p>The cats that live around this area are part of the local community and have been for many years. Members of the community have taken care of the cat population in the area for many years by feeding and neutering them. This 'humane removal' of the cats is simply not what the local community wants for these defenseless animals. The cats have not only become a part of the community, but also contribute to the pest control of the area as they hunt and kill rats and other rodents that would be running rampant otherwise. By removing the cats, you would be allowing the area to become pest infested. If tourists want to see rat infested streets, they can go to New York City, not Old San Juan.</p>
1860	<p>When I first visited Old San Juan as a tourist in 2011, my fondest memories were of the cats at El Morro. I still have the photographs I took of them that trip. Now, as a resident of Puerto Rico, I am completely APPALLED at the NPS's cat removal plan.</p> <p>Cats are inherent to the culture of Old San Juan. They have been there since early Spanish settlers brought them over 500 years ago. To say they don't "fit" the culture is absolutely absurd. They have been around as long as San Juan itself!</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Trap and Release programs DO work. (Look at the success in SF for example) We have witnessed many locals abandoning cats in OSJ in the middle of the night. The magnitude of stray animals (cats AND dogs) on the island is an island wide problem - killing all the cats in one area will not do anything to solve it. The only way forward here is to increase funding for TNR. Save a Gato is a wonderful organization but it is likely they are overwhelmed - put the resources that would go to this euthanizing program toward TNR and watch the entire island's problem improve.</p> <p>Lastly, how is the NPS prepared to deal with the significant rat and vermin infestation that will inevitably follow the "removal" of these cats? I doubt local businesses and restaurants are prepared to deal with the problem.</p> <p>I am firmly against this plan, and if it goes forward, I will be telling all of my friends from the States who now frequently visit to boycott all restaurants, businesses, and bars in OSJ.</p>
1861	Please leave the cats of Old San Juan alone. If you need to spend your budget, I'm sure you can find some other way to dispose of that money.
1862	Los gatos son parte de la visita al viejo san juan, no estoy de acuerdo con que maten a cientos de gatos porque si. Muchísimas de las personas que van al viejo san juan disfrutan la compañía de los gatos y no les molesta que anden por ahí.
1863	This is devastating! These are lives! These cats have been living in Old San Juan for ages and it's cruel to remove/displace them from their home. They are a part of Old San Juan and they make it unique and add to the charm. One of my favorite things to do is to walk Paseo De Morro and greet the kitties. This is inhumane and cruel. These cats deserve to be saved, they do no harm.
1864	Son muy excelentes y no le hacen daño a nadie no los eliminen
1865	No deberían remover a los gatos del viejo San Juan ya que están esterilizados y vacunados. Hay voluntarios que se encargan de alimentarlos y cuidarlos. No hay ninguna razón válida por la cual eliminar a estos gatos, a demás que ayudan a mantener las plagas bajo control.
1866	I support the humane treatment of all animals, and feel that there has to be a compassionate solution to manage the population of cats in Old San Juan. Euthanization does not feel appropriate here. These cats play a vital role in both the ecosystem and character of the community, and I believe that a healthy balance has (or can be) reached.
1867	Do NOT pass this. These poor cats did NOTHING to harm anyone and do NOT deserve to die for selfish people who care about no one and nothing but themselves. Ridiculous you'd even consider such a horrible thing.
1868	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>up until last year of 2021 i have never owned a cat, so I didn't have any experience with them except the occasional run ins on the street with the strays. But for the last year I've been blessed to own a little kitten we named coby.</p> <p>Coby is a precious little black n white female kitten that we rescued, and a year later she is in good health.</p> <p>You see now I know what it is like to know a cat, i gotta tell you they are an independent species that thrive on their own and they're survivors, that being said I urge you; the parks department of puerto rico to let the cats be, please!</p> <p>Please don't hurt these precious little creatures. Because all they want to do is live! They roam around like their ancestors and hunt fir food and just sleep. But they're harmless in the grand scheme of things. CAT LIVES MATTER, CAT LIVES MATTER, CAT LIVES MATTER! You want to clean the streets up; start with all the bums that are spread out</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	throughout the island drinking and dirtying up the streets of Puerto Rico! Please leave the cat's alone!!!! Thank you, Yours truly
1869	No estoy deacuerdo que remuevan los gatitos. VSJ es su hogar.
1870	I am opposed to the measure to address the free-range cats in Old San Juan. Instead I fully support Save a Gato, and whatever Save a Gato believes is best for these cats and the neighborhood. Please do not pass this proposed measure.
1871	Los gatitos ayudan a mantener el area libre de roedores. No le hacen mal a nadie.
1872	You are MONSTERS for even considering this. I hope tourism goes to 0 if you do this. I know I won't be visiting, and I will CERTAINLY be telling everyone I know not to as well. How do you live with yourselves?
1873	Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas.
1874	La sobre población de gatos debe de atenderse con mucha sensibilidad y empatía, sin maltrato ni crueldad. Los gatos tienen derecho a la vida y la comunidad a proveerles las mejores condiciones posibles para vivir bien. Las personas y la sociedad fueron los responsables de sacarlos del estado natural en que vivían y romper el equilibrio en que vivían. Al domesticarlos cometiendo el error de permitir que se reprodujeran sin control. El ser humano y las instituciones que lo representan son los responsables de que existan cientos de colonias de gatos en las ciudades y ahora quieren solucionar el problema de un día para otro, sacrificando cruelmente a estos animales. Esta medida drástica e inhumana es además una falta de respeto, de consideración al trabajo de muchas personas y de organizaciones que por décadas y de manera voluntaria compasiva han atendido a estos gatos alimentando, curando, cuidando y sobre todo esterilizando para detener y erradicar la sobre población de gatos en las calles. Las maneras violentas y crueles en el manejo de los animales deben de parar y ser actos vergonzosos del pasado que nos degridan como pueblo y nos aleja de la meta de ser mejores personas en una sociedad justa y bondadosa con su gente como también con sus animales. La propuesta de remover los gatos del Morro es inhumana, es cruel, es irresponsable y es ilegal. Estos gatos ya están esterilizados y están siendo cuidados. Dejen a Save a gato seguir haciendo su trabajo que es el ejemplo a seguir. Ahora es cuestión de que el ciclo de la vida haga lo propio: vivirán, envejecerán y morirán en paz y dignamente. Es lo menos que debemos hacer por ellos. Los gatos del Viejo San Juan ayudan y contribuyen de manera natural a controlar las ratas atraídas por los desperdicios orgánicos que producen los restaurantes y residentes. Exterminar o remover los gatos del Viejo San Juan contribuirá a la garantiza el aumento de ratas y de la enfermedad mortal que transmiten a los humanos lectospirosis Yo lo veo simple elegir entre gatos o ratas. Usemos el sentido común que hace mucho tiempo dejó de ser el más común de los sentidos. La historia nos dará la razón. ¡Hagamos la lucha protejamos los gatos!! En Pie de Lucha contra: la violencia, el atropello, el maltrato, la insensibilidad y la deshumanización! ¡No importa de donde venga!
1875	Please give these cats a chance. Save a Gato is a tremendous organization and should be supported in their efforts of saving these cats!
1876	Save the cats de la isla! 🐱
1877	Por favor no remuevan los gatos ellos son parte de San Juan ya, somos muchas las personas que vamos a San Juan esperando verlos. Para mi es como una terapia verlos, la asociación

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Save a Gato los cuida muy bien y los mantiene muy bien. De corazón les pido no los remuevan.
1878	Hace algunos años tuve la oportunidad de colaborar con la organización encargada de los gatos del paseo del Morro, "Save a Gato". Hice el recorrido completo y en mi tiempo allí, pude ver con la dedicación que esta organización trabaja, no solo para alimentar los gatos, sino para esterilizarlos, salvaguardar su salud, y con ello la salud de los habitantes de dicha zona y sus visitantes. También pude presenciar como los gatos le alegran el recorrido a las personas que por allí pasean. Las personas se detienen a acariciarlos y le agradecen la labor a los voluntarios de la organización. Dicho esto, estos animales no le hacen daño a nadie, al contrario, hacen de el paseo uno más especial y a su vez ayudan a controlar plagas de roedores y otros animales que están presentes en la ciudad. Por esto y más, estoy en contra de la eliminación de los gatos del paseo del Morro y pido que no se lleve a cabo o continúe con este proyecto.
1879	The cats do not bother anyone. Let them be! If anything, sterilize them and let them free again in SAN JUAN.
1880	Please don't remove the cats. They add to the charm of the area.
1881	Los Gatos son los animales más limpios que hay, gracias a ellos la calles del Viejo San Juan están libre de ratas y ratones. Ellos además de que defienden su área son su olor de sus desechos hacen que los otros animales e insectos se alejen, igualmente ellos los cazan. Ellos cazan para demostrarle a su dueño que trabajan y lo entregan en forma de agradecimiento de si comida día a día y el cariño que le demuestran.
1882	Los gatos de San Juan, además de ser seres vivientes que no merecen que se les quite la vida para hacer más "atractivo" el lugar, también controlan las plagas y son seres amados por sus visitantes y residentes. La sociedad puertorriqueña no apoya el maltrato animal porque no son un estorbo, son seres naturales y por ende, son naturaleza. Matarles o quitarles del camino solo nos hace apoyar la aniquilación del planeta tierra junto a los seres que son parte de ella. En Puerto Rico se adopta y se les cuida.
1883	I'm against the policy to move the cats out of Old San Juan.
1884	<p>The only humane and effective option for controlling the population of colony cats is TNR. If the NPS feels that additional control over the colony is needed, they may want to look into assisting (financially or physically) the local TNR volunteer groups in their ongoing mission to provide food, medical care, and population control to colony cats.</p> <p>It is important to consider the vacuum effect - that if cats are removed from a colony, more cats will move in.</p> <p>And that relocated cats can travel many miles to arrive back at their home territory.</p> <p>As a an advocate of TNR and a visitor to San Juan, I was thrilled to see that a TNR group is in place, and that there are several healthy, managed colonies around the island. Because I participate in TNR programs in my home state and am familiar with managed colonies, I would be alarmed at the absence of any colony cats in tourist areas - as it belies inhumane cat removal practices.</p>
1885	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>Please reconsider the plan to remove and euthanize cats in VSJ/ el Morro. I feel like the funding put towards that idea would be better spent educating (promotion of responsible spay and neutering) as well as supporting Trap and Release programs, such as Save a Gato, which already exists to serve the community. Prop them up with funding, marketing and workers to</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>help. Or marketing only and help get the word out there for donations and volunteers. Hiring a third party to indiscriminately round up cats for money reeks of potential abuse, and it doesn't do anything for the cats in other areas. I would venture to say many, many tourists love the cats. Look how many cat videos are on the internet. If tourists knew the park service was going to round up and kill cats, it would definitely be regarded as negative. Cats are also useful to keep the rat populations down, which keeps diseases down. Please don't remove the cats. Please support Save a Gato, and don't let their hard work go to waste. Thank you for reading my concerns. I am a resident of Puerto Rico.</p>
1886	<p>Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Han estado ahí por años. Cuando uno visita el VSJ siempre espera ver uno que otro y es lindo. También, nos vemos como un país compasivo para el que nos visita de afuera. Muchos de estos gatitos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas. Porque mejor no crean programas para ayudar a las entidades que día a día se dedican a cuidarlos? Que sucedió con la vigilancia?</p>
1887	<p>Creo que es injusto tomar la vida de estos gatos que siempre han estado en San Juan. Siendo aún parte de nuestros monumentos históricos en San Juan. Los Gatos no molestan a nadie, no hay motivo de violencia hacia ellos ni aún siquiera de removerlos de la naturaleza donde pertenecen. Cada cual merece estar aquí y nuestros animales son parte de nosotros y de la tierra. Esto no afecta a nadie y es una criminalidad hacer un acto de remover a Los Gatos. No queremos que hagan nada con ellos, son nuestros gatos y merecen quedarse en San Juan</p>
1888	<p>Por favor tengan piedad del animal indefenso. Llevamos tanto tiempo con ellos ahí. A nadie le molestan! Se encargan de las ratas y considero inhumano e injusto que tomen esta decisión. Sabra Dios que hacen con ellos. El pueblo literalmente se encarga de ellos! No sean así!</p>
1889	<p>Buenos días:</p> <p>Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos de ellos son muy amorosos y hacen de esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas las cuales destruyen y esparcen enfermedades. Son bien cuidados y alimentados gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan y hasta los mismos visitantes. Ellos (los gatos) no están solos. Durante muchos años han tenido quienes velen por ellos desde simplemente alimentándolos hasta esterilizarlos y buscarles un hogar permanente. Se debe optar por otra ruta alterna para ayudar con la superpoblación. No optar por quitarles sus vidas. Esa NUNCA debe de ser considerada ni siquiera como última opción.</p>
1890	<p>This is unacceptable. Cats are what keep VSJ clean of rodents and insects, we don't want roaches all over the city or rats on the plain road.</p>
1891	<p>I think the cats that roam around the city post no harm or damage to the city. They should leave them alone to be around the city because they help with the control of the rat population in the city.</p>
1892	<p>Buenos días:</p> <p>Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos de ellos son muy amorosos y hacen de esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas las cuales destruyen y esparcen enfermedades. Son bien cuidados y alimentados gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan y</p>

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	<p>hasta los mismos visitantes. Ellos (los gatos) no están solos. Durante muchos años han tenido quienes velen por ellos desde simplemente alimentandolos hasta esterilizarlos y buscarles un hogar permanente. Se debe optar por otra ruta alterna para ayudar con la superpoblación. No optar por quitarles sus vidas. Esa NUNCA debe de ser conciderada ni siquiera como última opción.</p>
1893	<p>I'm grateful to the National Park Service for the work and care you devote to our parks and to the San Juan Historic Site.</p> <p>I work in Old San Juan and walk Paseo del Morro Sunday mornings. I recognize the downside of the cats in the area but also realize these cats are a welcome sight to many, myself included, and have become something of a tourist attraction.</p> <p>The current plan may not be working, but the proposed plan will fail as well, and many residents and visitors will consider the actions taken as cruel.</p> <p>Cats will return to the area, as there's no barrier to their entry from the rest of San Juan. People will feed them, sometimes they'll reintroduce them, you'll meet resistance from many who'd like to continue seeing and caring for them, and I doubt you'll want to invest in the resources required to continuously monitor and control new cats.</p> <p>Why not work closer with Save a Gato and help them gain more resources so their TNR program is more successful?</p> <p>Given the choice of only two options, I support No Action.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
1894	<p>That would be murdering innocent creatures NEUTER do not kill!!!</p>
1895	<p>The cats in OSJ are part of the community and as such they receive assistance and care from the area residents. I do NOT agree with removing and/or euthanizing any of these animals.</p>
1896	<p>Dear National Park Service,</p> <p>I'm reaching out regarding San Juan National Historic Site's Free-Ranging Cat Management Plan. I've visited the beautiful island of Puerto Rico many times over the last 20 years, Old San Juan being my favorite area to spend time in. Its cats are healthy, thanks to your work including maintaining feeding stations and managing/monitoring the cat population, and an integral part of the landscape and experience of visiting Old San Juan and El Morro. They're clean, quiet, and friendly to visitors.</p> <p>Please keep the current program (the "No Action" preliminary alternative) in place. If funding is an issue, you could easily crowdfund from the tens of millions of cat lovers across America to maintain and even enhance your current program; feel free to reach out if I can be helpful with this.</p> <p>Thanks for your work so far to keep the cat population in Old San Juan and El Morro healthy and monitored. Many of us look forward to returning to the island and seeing them.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1897	Los Gatos son inofensivos y son parte de la ciudad, los residentes y los turistas los quieren y además los chatos sirven como control de plaga ya que sin ellos viejo San Juan estuviera forrado de ratas y se convertiría en una zona inhabitable
1898	Save a Gato es una organización que ha trabajado arduamente para salvaguardar la vida y la salud de Los Gatos del viejo San Juan y con ello la salud de los habitantes y de los visitantes. Estoy en contra de la eliminación de estos animales ya que he visto cómo estos brindan valor a la ciudad. Además, esta organización se encarga de esterilizar los mismos y controlar su población, mientras ellos ayudan a controlar las plagas de la ciudad amurallada. Estos animales son unos amorosos que no le hacen daño a nadie, inclusive, atrae más a los turistas y ayudan a la ciudad.
1899	Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas.
1900	soy residente de San Juan. Me opongo completamente a la remocion de los gatos del Viejo San Juan. Los gatos son parte de la robusta cultura que caracteriza a Puerto Rico. Sirven de control de plagas, nunca han causado daño a nadie, y son cuidados por la organizacion de Save a Gato diariamente. Reconozco que la poblacion de felinos ha incrementado en los ultimos años, pero junto con las organizaciones existentes estoy segura que se podra llegar a un acuerdo donde la adopcion, el TNR y las multas a quienes abandonan sus animales en el VSJ se puede reducir la poblacion sin tener que removerlos de su hogar, el Morro. Hay alternativas, pero la propuesta por uds no es la correcta.
1901	save the cats!!!
1902	Saludos, recurro a este foro en oposicion al proyecto que propone remover a los gatos del viejo san juan. EL VSJ historicamente ha sido hogar de los felinos por muchisimas generaciones. Traidos originalmente por los españoles, han servido de control de plagas, atractivo turistico, entre otros. La organizacion encargada de darles comida, esterilizarlos y vacunarlos ha estado llevado a cabo una labor extraordinaria. Sugiero que en vez de implementarse una remocion forzosa, se recurra a una mesa redonda donde las organizaciones, los residentes de san juan y los ciudadanos que nos oponemos a la remocion de los gatos podramos tomar accion sobre la sobrepoblacion actual de felinos, sin tener que removerlos de su habitat actual. Muchas de los "problemas" planteados en la propuesta tienen solucion, sin tener que recurrir a la remocion.
1903	me opongo a la remocion de los gatos del viejo san juan. Es un error recurrir a la remocion de animales que por generaciones han sido parte de la cultura de nuestro Puerto Rico. Por años, los residentes, las organizaciones locales e incluso los turistas se sienten agradados cuando son recibidos en areas del viejo san juan por gatos esterilizados y vacunados (y listos para adoptar!) que merodean el area. Save a gato ha sido el mayor protector de los gatos, y con buena razon! Los gatos han servido de control de plagas de ratas, aportan a la belleza de la isla y no poseen ningun riesgo para la salud de los humanos. No hay que recurrir a su remocion, si el problema es las areas de comida y las cajitas de arena, se pueden designar areas diferentes para ello. Continuar con este proyecto seria un grave error para todos.
1904	Greetings, With all due respect that the National Park entity deserves, what you want to do is sad and shameful. The cats of Old San Juan, in Puerto Rico, are already part of our culture. They do not hurt anyone, nor do they damage the historical legacy. On the contrary, they are a more

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>unique detail of our culture and city. Please don't remove them. You would be making a serious mistake. Save a gato has done excellent job for years caring for those cute cats. You, the entity, should thank Save a Gato for helping to increase tourism on the island.</p>
1905	<p>I am a US citizen or European origin, but have visited San Juan many times, usually at least once per year before the pandemic, since I married a Puerto Rican in 2002.</p> <p>It is a place of remarkable beauty, one of the most beautiful in the world, although neglected and mismanaged. It has some of the most altruistic, kind people, as well as its fair share of heartless and opportunistic scoundrels, like most other places, but the kind ones are so beyond their means. Many people take care of themselves, their families, people in their extended families and neighborhoods, and even the stray animals which others abandon, using their own resources to provide much needed services which the government should be providing and for which it, and not private citizens, have the money and responsibility.</p> <p>I, like so many other visitors, have been to El Morro and Old San Juan, and have been amazed by its history and beauty. But I have been there many times in two decades going to the island and considering it almost a quasi-home. My son and other family members have also been there. And several times we have stopped to admire the feline colony near by. My son and I have read the signs posted about the cats and even petted some of them. They are well cared for and pose no danger, unless a person acts recklessly, but stupid people can be a danger to themselves anywhere, anytime. We cannot cater to the lowest common denominator. If you want to reduce the risk of a dumb person being bitten or scratched, post more signs and have a security guard (preferably hired from within the animal rescue community, not another ignorant humanoid) patrol the area 24 hrs. And just support what Save a Gato has been doing for more than a decade! They have done it with little or no support, and it looks like a true labor of love. I was proud of them and even pointed out their admirable work to other visitors who came in from Europe or the continental US to visit us while we spent summers on the island pre-pandemic. Everyone seemed appreciative and left with more hope in humanity after a few minutes with these cats.</p> <p>I also still see plenty of green invasive iguanas in Old San Juan, but also hear abundant song birds (when walking, away from the noise of traffic) yet I have never seen a mouse in San Juan - although in old towns and cities with catacombs and tourists they are usually abundant. Yes, mice are nocturnal and hide from people, but I know a few people who have properties in Old San Juan and apparently they do not need to worry about rodent feces or urine. If these cats are moved (or worse, I cannot believe you are considering killing them) others will soon move in and replace them, but they won't be vetted or as well cared as the current ones. You have an almost managed situation that you should just improve. Work better with those already working with the cats and provide them the tools they need to do a better job. "Hire" them if the hours they provide are not enough. Remember that these are volunteers who help out after their real job and family obligations, but they surely know someone - maybe a college or veterinary science student? - who could take on a real job with the National Park Service, or be subcontracted through Save a Gato which I think is a non profit org.</p> <p>I am writing on behalf of me and my entire family, including my children who will be crushed if we allow you to swoop in, disrupt all the work others have done, and KILL these animals.</p>
1906	<p>Please do not remove these cats from Old San Juan. They are being thoughtfully cared for, sterilized, and vaccinated.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Por favor, no retire a estos gatos del viejo San Juan. Están siendo cuidadosamente cuidados, esterilizados e vacunados.</p>
1907	<p>both residents of San Juan, are against the NPS plan to "manage" (eliminate) the cat population of El Morro.</p> <p>You should listen to, or even better, partner with, community organizations like Save A Gato so that they can continue and EXPAND their work in trap, neuter, and release efforts. There's a framework in place so no need to create a plan from scratch. There should be PAID POSITIONS doing humane animal care and control, not just relying on nonprofit volunteers and private donations. Also, how is NPS going to fully distinguish between Old San Juan residents' pets who might get rounded up in scoops and feral cats that don't belong to anyone?</p> <p>Cat and dog populations are out of control because Puerto Rico, a US colony, is under a brutal federal austerity agenda, in addition to being hit by a series of natural disasters. Many people have been forced to move or leave the archipelago, and/or they can no longer afford to keep pets. The alarming loss of population, coupled with an increasingly older population, is supported by census data. Most of the oficial animal shelters are kill shelters. People would rather abandon pets or litters they can't take care of, than take them to a kill shelter, so they take their chances that someone might take care of them. There's a lot of red tape involved in surrendering pets. More options are needed for truly affordable spay & neuter.</p> <p>There must be a holistic approach that takes into account the causes of the homeless animal population explosion and come up with better solutions that are humane. There are organizations like the PR Humane Society, the Santuario de Animales San Francisco de Asís, just to name a few, doing superhuman work on shoestring budgets.</p> <p>Your misguided plan to eliminate the cats is just going to result in more rats and mice in VSJ. NPS and the San Juan municipality should direct more resources addressing the roots of certain problems, including creating public education campaigns to eliminate the causes of animal abandonment or worse, animal cruelty.</p> <p>The only priorities for Old San Juan can't just be about creating a sterile Disneyland for tourists that come and go, and aren't invested in preserving culture or historical landmarks that belong to Puerto Ricans.</p>
1908	<p>Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas.</p>
1909	<p>Those cats are part of Old San Juan's community and taken care of by it and non-profit organizations. They are very friendly and are no treat. Please, let them be at their home!</p>
1910	<p>I have visited San Juan many times. The cat sanctuary is always a stop. Will I believe in the National Park service, I adamantly oppose this action to close the sanctuary. The cats preceded the Park service. And therefore, should take some Sort of precedence in any decision regarding their removal. Why can't the current peaceful co-existence remain in place? What happens if you remove the cats and suddenly develop a</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	rodent problem? What is the plan to combat a rodent Population explosion? #Keep the cats- prevent the rats.
1911	Please don't remove/kill the Old San Juan cats. Let Save a Gato continue to take care of them.
1912	Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas.
1913	The cats of Old San Juan are part of the Walled City. We all love kitties and they keep the city clean of rats. Please allow coexistence with cats in San Juan. Thank you very much!
1914	Dejar que los gatos vivan con dignidad.
1915	This is not acceptable nor is this truly a problem. I'm baffled that money will be focused on this when it should go to the education system (pensions). If you go through with this you can enjoy the rat infestation that lies ahead.
1916	<p>I am a US citizen or European origin, but have visited San Juan many times, usually at least once per year before the pandemic, since I married a Puerto Rican in 2002.</p> <p>It is a place of remarkable beauty, one of the most beautiful in the world, although neglected and mismanaged. It has some of the most altruistic, kind people, as well as its fair share of heartless and opportunistic scoundrels, like most other places, but the kind ones are so beyond their means. Many people take care of themselves, their families, people in their extended families and neighborhoods, and even the stray animals which others abandon, using their own resources to provide much needed services which the government should be providing and for which it, and not private citizens, have the money and responsibility.</p> <p>I, like so many other visitors, have been to El Morro and Old San Juan, and have been amazed by its history and beauty. But I have been there many times in two decades going to the island and considering it almost a quasi-home. My son and other family members have also been there. And several times we have stopped to admire the feline colony near by. My son and I have read the signs posted about the cats and even petted some of them. They are well cared for and pose no danger, unless a person acts recklessly, but stupid people can be a danger to themselves anywhere, anytime. We cannot cater to the lowest common denominator. If you want to reduce the risk of a dumb person being bitten or scratched, post more signs and have a security guard (preferably hired from within the animal rescue community, not another ignorant humanoid) patrol the area 24 hrs. And just support what Save a Gato has been doing for more than a decade! They have done it with little or no support, and it looks like a true labor of love. I was proud of them and even pointed out their admirable work to other visitors who came in from Europe or the continental US to visit us while we spent summers on the island pre-pandemic. Everyone seemed appreciative and left with more hope in humanity after a few minutes with these cats.</p> <p>I also still see plenty of green invasive iguanas in Old San Juan, but also hear abundant song birds (when walking, away from the noise of traffic) yet I have never seen a mouse in San Juan - although in old towns and cities with catacombs and tourists they are usually abundant. Yes, mice are nocturnal and hide from people, but I know a few people who have properties in Old San Juan and apparently they do not need to worry about rodent feces or urine.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>If these cats are moved (or worse, I cannot believe you are considering killing them) others will soon move in and replace them, but they won't be vetted or as well cared as the current ones. You have an almost managed situation that you should just improve. Work better with those already working with the cats and provide them the tools they need to do a better job. "Hire" them if the hours they provide are not enough. Remember that these are volunteers who help out after their real job and family obligations, but they surely know someone - maybe a college or veterinary science student? - who could take on a real job with the National Park Service, or be subcontracted through Save a Gato which I think is a non profit org.</p> <p>I am writing on behalf of me and my entire family, including my children who will be crushed if we allow you to swoop in, disrupt all the work others have done, and KILL these animals.</p>
1917	Hi I would like to vote in favor for finding a more humane solution
1918	These kittens and promote harmony and peace in the area. It is an act of cruelty to proceed with euthanasia, and there is no need for its removal. Since the same community has been in charge of their health care and food. I hope I don't have to go through this tumultuous process of murdering cats again for the simple fact that they don't like it. Thanks
1919	Our cats are residents of Old San Juan. Many are very loving and make this area a better place. In addition, they do a great job in controlling rat pests. They are well cared for and maintained thanks to the various entities dedicated to these cats and the residents of Old San Juan themselves. Another alternative route should be taken to help with the overpopulation problem, not choose to take their lives.
1920	Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas.
1921	<p>As a Puertorican resident and a Save a Gato volunteer I can attest that the Viejo San Juan Cats are being cared for and protected. I drove for more than an hour every Sunday of every week for 2 years just to volunteer at the sanctuary.</p> <p>Save a Gato, the non profit cat sanctuary offers medicine, care and practices TNR (Trapping Neutering and Releasing) on the almost 500 cat colony in Old San Juan. These techniques help us control and track each cat in order for us to vaccinate, neuter and find some of them a home by putting them up for adoption.</p> <p>The cats are free roaming but, that does not mean they are neglected. The cats in the colony have been given names, they have medical records with the local veterinary centers, they are fostered to health and are neutered. These cats play an important role in helping us control the ongoing growth of the rat, iguanas, pigeons and lizards in the San Juan area.</p> <p>This plan has just brought up the real problem we face in Puerto Rico: Abandonment. Removing the cats will take a way the efforts invested into educating tourists, residents, kids and everyone else to appreciate any form of life no matter how small it is, just like the cats.</p> <p>I am opposed to the NPS plan to remove the free ranging cats of Old San Juan. The National Park System has always been home to all types of animals all over the United States like</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>bears, mountain lions and alligators. Our animals are just smaller and do not represent a threat to anyones safety.</p> <p>I believe the plan should and could be modified. Instead of removal of the animals we could implement vigilance to lower cat abandonment rates and enforce our anti-abandonment laws as they should be by the police.</p> <p>Removing the cats wont solve the problem, it will only create more.</p>
1922	ABAJO LA IDEA DE REMOVER A LOS GATOS DEL MORRO
1923	<p>Dear National Park Service,</p> <p>I object the proposal by National Park Service in regards to Paseo Del Morro, Old San Juan and the cats cared for by Save A Gato.</p> <p>In November 2020, I came to Puerto Rico to get away from life in Boston, Ma and try to decompress from the pandemic. While on a walk at Paseo Del Morro I discovered these cats. Being a owner of a cat and loved cats since I could remember, I was instantly in love with this colony of cats. I went to Paseo Del Morro everyday on my trip to spend time with them. On that trip I ended up rescuing a kitten named ienie and bringing her back to Boston for adoption.</p> <p>This experiance changed my life forever in the most positive way possible. If I hadn't discovered the cats at Paseo Del Morro, I don't know where I would be now. These cats and Save A Gato organization helped me get through very hard times in 2020.</p> <p>I returned to Puerto Rico in December of 2021 and volunteered half of my 11 day vacation to Save A Gato and the team of other volunteers caring for the cats of Paseo Del Morro. I also rescued another cat and brought her back to Boston for adoption.</p> <p>I will continue to visit Puerto Rico to volunteer with Save A Gato and care for the cats of Paseo Del Morro. These cats will continue to be a positive attraction at Paseo Del Morro. I hope the National Park Service will consider to keep these cats at Paseo Del Morro and in Old San Juan.</p> <p>Thank you for giving me a chance to leave public comment.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>
1924	<p>These cats have lived for years in Old San Juan, they are citizens of Old San Juan. They have been famous for being the biggest cats in Puerto Rico. Even in the school of arts the students have name for them and even know their personalities. I've seen how tourists pee in the streets and walls, thats the smell not the cats. A real way ro fix this would be sterilizing street animals, educating on the care and empathy that animals deserve. Please don't let this happen, innocent lives are not the problem. Act 22 is. Tourist cannot decide for us, for innocent animals.</p>
1925	<p>Please the cats in old San Juan are legendary!! They are well kept for so many years ! They are part of Old San Juan!! It would be a crime taking them out of Old San Juan and probably killing them !</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1926	As a cat lover, every time I go to San Juan, I make it a point to visit El Paseo de la Princesa, just to see these beautiful souls. They are looked after, taken care of and loves. They are a part of Puerto Rico. They are not vermin and their lives mean something to a lot of people. Efforts have been made to spay and neuter them so that the population doesn't continue to grow. The decent thing...The humane thing... The right thing to do is to allow them to continue living their lives where they live. You would be doing Puerto Rico a disfavor, a great injury and insult if you are to wipe out the lives of these puertorican lives, as if they were nothing. They are not nothing. They are alive. They exist. They love and enjoy the same things we as humans enjoy. They hurt like us, and like us, they have the right to live. Please, do not do this great cause of harm to that which us puertoricans hold dear. Thank you
1927	I heard this institution has planning on euthanized all of old san juan cats from PR territory. Its sad and barbaric. I believe there is a human way to deal with the overpopulation of cats. You should talk with save a gato that has been doing an amazing job with TNR program.
1928	Please leave the cats of Old San Juan alone. They are managed very well through TNR, which limits their reproduction significantly and allows them to help greatly with rodent and pest control. They are well cared for and fed by a dedicated team of volunteers. The cats are loved by locals and tourists alike, they are a huge draw for many tourists and Old San Juan would not be the same without them.
1929	Please do not remove the cats. This is their home. Shame on you.
1930	To Whom it May Concern, I am completely opposed to any plan to remove the cats from Old San Juan. The Save a Gato foundation has been working tirelessly for over 20 years to ensure a healthy and sterilized cat population. Many cats are adopted from this organization as well. The cats are given fresh food and water daily and don't pose a threat to humans or wildlife. My family is a regular visitor to PR. We also visit the cats, and consider it a highlight of our trip. Please let them live in peace. Respectfully,
1931	KEEP THE CATS IN OLD SAN JUAN!!!!
1932	I am against tue removal of the cats of old San Juan. The controlled colony of cats services their purpose. The most human, kind, sensitive and evolutionary as human beings is to get every pet a home. But sometimes that is impossible. So we as rescuers do the maot human thing. Get them to veterinary care and spay or neutered them. It is a coordinate and big job that takes a lot of money spent in veterinary care and posibble adoption just to get them and kill those cats. The vigilance from NPS is very needed to avoid the abandonment of cats. Once you removed them, people will keep abandoning cats around the area. Most of those cats are not spay or neuter so this will bring the same or a bigger problem. You need as a NPS to take care of the area to keep people out from abandoning cats. We are a pet lover community that are against your plans. We don't want the cats to be killed. We need to be a civilizate people a civilizate planet. Everyone has their right to live and to exist and animals are included. I am against the removal of cats. Keep the cats in Old San Juan.
1933	No queremos ratas en la ciudad capital. Los gatos ayudan a controlarlas. Adicional son cariñosos y embellecen las calles. Los gatos merecen nuestra protección. Ellos son parte de nosotros, de nuestra identidad como ciudad.

Corr ID	Correspondence
1934	<p>Saludos,</p> <p>Estoy en contra del plan que propone el gobierno federal para el control de gatos realengos en la zona histórica de Viejo San Juan. Los gatos de Viejo San Juan que típicamente se encuentra en el paseo del Morro son parte de la cultura de la ciudad de Viejo San Juan. No hacen daño a las personas y atraen muchos turistas. También la colonia de gatos en Viejo San Juan sirven para controlar plagas de roedores de manera natural.</p> <p>Los gatos llevan décadas en Viejo San Juan, incluyendo el paseo del Morro y no es necesario hacer ningún plan o propuesta para su control. También hay varias asociaciones sin fines de lucro que constantemente se encargan de su esterilización, alimento y cuidado médico. Favor de dejar los gatos de Viejo San Juan tranquilos y no hacerles ningún daño. Tampoco deben ser removidos de ninguna forma.</p>
1935	Do not kill the cats at El Morro. It is animal cruelty. They are lovely animals. Help control the population with no euthanasia.
1936	<p>Buenos días:</p> <p>Los gatitos del Viejo San Juan son residentes muy importantes a la par de esenciales para evitar la plaga de ratas en el área. Son criaturas muy amorosas, dóciles y gracias a diversas entidades dedicadas al cuidado, esterilización y búsqueda de hogar de estas hermosas criaturas. Muchos de ellos han vivido allí durante años sin lastimar a nadie ni destruir nada. Se debe observar alternativas que que ayuden con el problema de la sobrepoblación sin que se le arrebaten sus vidas. Podrían trabajar mano a mano en pro de los gatos junto con las distintas entidades dedicadas al cuidado de los mismos. Quitarles sus vidas JAMAS debería de considerarse una opción.</p>
1937	DO NOT KILL THE CATS. Since I was a kid I loved walking along the parks and trails of Old San Juan, my favorite thing in these walks? THE CATS! These cats have been part of the community at Old San Juan for decades. They have controlled the rat population and they are as cute as they can be. For years there has been a group called Save A Gato who have dedicated their time to catch, vaccinate and neuter these cats and release them back to their home. This group, among other volunteers have taken care of the health and well being of these cat colonies making them healthy and happy. It is completely unnecessary to "get rid" of these kitties specially when LOCALS don't have an issue with them. If tourists can't stand the cat's they are MORE than WELCOME TO LEAVE the island, but THE CATS ARE STAYING.
1938	<p>Buenos días:</p> <p>Los gatitos del Viejo San Juan son residentes muy importantes a la par de esenciales para evitar la plaga de ratas en el área. Son criaturas muy amorosas, dóciles y gracias a diversas entidades dedicadas al cuidado, esterilización y búsqueda de hogar de estas hermosas criaturas. Muchos de ellos han vivido allí durante años sin lastimar a nadie ni destruir nada. Se debe observar alternativas que que ayuden con el problema de la sobrepoblación sin que se le arrebaten sus vidas. Podrían trabajar mano a mano en pro de los gatos junto con las distintas entidades dedicadas al cuidado de los mismos. Quitarles sus vidas JAMAS debería de considerarse una opción.</p>
1939	Save the cats
1940	Save the cats
1941	Save the cats

Corr ID	Correspondence
1942	Culling cats is unethical. Put in safeguards for birds and implement more funding for TNR. Be the change you wish to see in the world.
1943	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I recently visited Old San Juan. It is such a beautiful city and the cats I saw made it even more so. I have read about this plan to remove the cats, but I can assure you that the beauty and charm of this city will not be the same without them. These cats have lived there for more than 20 years. They are taken care of and are there to serve a purpose to this city as well. They catch rodents and keep the city clean and pest free. Please do not relocate these cats, for this city is their home as well. My cat recently passed away and San Juan was the city I visited after his passing. A cat came up to me and it made me feel less alone in this time of my life where everything seems out of my control. I'm sure they make other people feel the same way I did. They just want love and to stay in their home. My cat was a stray as well and if it wasn't for the good people around him, I wouldn't know what would have happened to him. I'd imagine the cats of Old San Juan would have an unpredictable future if it was not for the organization Save a Gato. The people of this organization have made a promise to these lives that they will be taken care of, and they are. This city would not be the same without them. Please rethink your decision in implementing the plan of relocating these cats. Please find it in your hearts to not take them away from their homes. Please feel free to contact me at any point, if there is anything else I can do to change your decision.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
1944	I love seeing the cats in and around El Castillo. Supporting a TNR (trap/neuter/release) and feeding program would be a great way to address the cats that live around the area
1945	Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas.
1946	<p>The cats of Old San Juan are a pivotal part of the towns charm and history. They have helped increase tourism and decrease a plague of rats that could be a bigger issue if it weren't for them. There's many restaurants and trash that attracts rats and the cats have been taking care of us not being as affected by them. All the cats are taken cared for and they pretty much keep to certain areas of OSJ rather than the whole town. They don't bother anybody, nor have they attacked any civilian or tourist. The cats have to stay, working in the tourist industry I've met many from around the globe that literally come by excited to see the little furry friends, it would have an impact on peoples approach to the city. Most if not all of the cats are chipped and a great many of them, through being able to live in a safe area it increases their chances for being adopted. More than try and KILL THEM there should be a bigger focus on adoptions and resources for them to live healthy comfortable lives. They've been there for longer than probably the individuals proposing this absurd project have ever been in OSJ.</p> <p>Going back to the rat situation, just to put an example; if their were cats that, like these, have an organization like Save a Gato (save a cat) to care for them and monitor their needs, in the streets of New York their probably wouldn't be such a high rat problem everywhere. Another note: there's no farms in OSJ with livestock or other types of animals that could be affected by the cats hunting nature, just the rats. Think about it.</p>

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1947	<p>My family and friends have visited Puerto Rico for the last decade. Along with visiting the beautiful culture and people, we come to see the cats of Old San Juan. These cats give San Juan history and give back to the environment on multiple ways. It is beautiful to see that Puerto Ricans is taking care of their animals. The cats are a part of Puerto Rico's history and should remain so. We want to see them when we visit help the organizations like save a gato by donating. Please understand the how Old San Juan would not be the same without the cats. You would do injustice as these cats are part of the historical character of why people want to come and visit.</p>
1948	<p>Save a gato has been working with the cat population for twenty years.</p> <p>The number of cats in the area would have EXPLODED had it not been for their efforts. They work tirelessly to TNR and perform other medical procedures on the cats to give them a chance at a good life.</p> <p>The cats to no harm. They aren't hurting anyone. They spend most of their time hiding. They do not take away from the beauty of the area. If anything, they add to it.</p> <p>Please leave the cats alone.</p>
1949	<p>my family members along with many organizations in Puerto Rico have been fighting this issue to sterilize the feral cat population on the streets and get these animals to safe homes. This will change the island in a negative way as this colony is a huge attraction for tourists and boricuas alike. Keep the cats safe and alive where they are!</p>
1950	<p>One of the most enjoyable and interesting things about visiting the San Juan Historical Site / El Morro and the surrounding area is the presence of the cats/ Los Gatos. The cats only serve to enhance the experience and control the rodent population. I have never, ever, witnessed any visitor upset or alarmed by the presence of these peaceful creatures. I donate to the Save A Gato nonprofit organization every year because I see the care they provide to the cats and t because this group helps to ensure the population remains under control. The presence of cats in San Juan historically is due to people (Spanish colonizers) and we should not punish the felines who have settled here today for our folly. Please let the felines stay put.</p>
1951	<p>The people of Save a Gato have worked tirelessly to TNR the cats and care for them. These cats have become an attraction for locals as well as tourists that come from all over to visit the Save a Gato area and interact with the cats. These cats help control local pests such as rats and iguanas and do no harm to anybody. Killing them would be inhumane and utterly heartless since these cats are loved and well taken care of by many. Animals should be protected not slaughtered. Save a Gato and all of the cats deserve to stay.</p>
1952	<p>Please do not euthanize the cats. Instead, spay and neuter them.</p>
1953	<p>I have been following Save A Gato Rescue for some time and their work and care for the cats at el Paseo del Morro trail. It is heartbreaking to learn that the site is considering a management plan for the cats, as this generally means relocation and/or euthanasia. The cats are well managed and a fertilized, meaning, they are not at risk for breeding. Removing these cats will likely set up a situation in which others start dumping unsterilized cats because of the long history of the park, and the situation becomes out of control without those who are constantly monitoring and managing the population.</p> <p>A visit to the park is on my list for trips because of my relationship with cats. A visit becomes less desirable when you change an aspect of what makes it attractive. I guarantee no harm can come from allowing the cats to be.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1954	This comment is aiming to keep the TNR cat colony of Paseo del Morro in their home. My family lives on the island and every time we visit, one of my favorite things to do is to head into old San Juan and be greeted by the friendly cats and kittens along the water. I was thrilled to find out about the Save a Gato foundation and immediately became a monthly donor to the program. I follow their work on social media, and see that every penny is put towards the love and care for those cats. This cat colony is one of MANY on the island and this specific cat colony is currently being targeted. I urge for the support of Save A Gato and their efforts to supply food, water, and care to these animals, rather than doing away with them. There is no reason this colony should be removed from their home, where generations have lived for years. Please DO NOT REMOVE THE CATS FROM PASEO DEL MORRO.
1955	Quiero salvar los gatos que están realengos en el pueblo de San Juan, Puerto Rico. Deberían hacer una vacunación masiva para eliminar la propagación pero q los dejen vivos. Ellos merecen vivir.
1956	Save a Gato does an amazing job managing the community cats of Paseo Del Morro. Please do not move forward with plans to remove or relocate these cats. They are a treasured part of the city and are admired by people near and far. Our organization, a Florida based animal rescue and many other rescue groups admire the work of Sage a Gato in ensuring the cats positively co exist with the local community and visitors in an urban setting. It would be a disservice to the cats and all those who enjoy them if you were to remove or relocate them.
1957	Please save our cats! They mean so much to us and having a healthy sterilized cat population is what Save A Gato has been working tirelessly for for the past 20 years!
1958	I go to SJU twice a month and I stop by Old San Juan on occasions. I always see people enjoying the cats, petting them, taking pictures, they are just part of the the beauty of the place. Please make a fund to protect them, not to kill them.
1959	Our cats are residents of Old San Juan. Many are very loving and make this area a better place. In addition, they do a great job in controlling rat pests. They are well cared for and maintained thanks to the various entities dedicated to these cats and the residents of Old San Juan themselves. Another alternative route should be taken to help with the overpopulation problem, not choose to take their lives.
1960	Hello, I am writing to you today in support of the TNR program in old San Juan. I visited with my family earlier this year and it is the cats that brought us to OSJ. We spent money at the local restaurants, street vendors, and shops, but it is the cats at del morro that brought us there and stole our hearts. We found them to be an indispensable part of the community. We support the efforts to TNR these cats and support their lives as valuable as all living things. They are sacred and should be protected. I hope to visit the cats again when we return to San Juan. Thank you,
1961	I love Old San Juan's cats and would hate to see them go! No matter what happens, I hope they are treated humanely!
1962	Cats at Viejo San Juan have been keeping rats and iguanas at bay for decades. The area is going to be seriously affected if cats from the area are removed .
1963	The cats of El Morro deserve to remain where they have created a home. They are not causing trouble, attacking visitors, or spreading diseases. There's no reason for them to be removed. There are packs of stray dogs all over the island that more in need of attention than the El Morro cats. The Save a Gato organization works hard to provide for the cats and even find them homes. With donations from supporters, this special cat colony can continue to

Corr ID	Correspondence
	bring smiles and friendly pets to anyone who visits the fort. They add something unforgettable to the experience and should absolutely be left to live there in peace.
1964	Please don't kill the colony of cats that are part of our city and culture. This act is not only cruel but also heartbreaking, it is the wrong message to our children, all the animal lovers that live in this island and the people that visit us. Let's not take the easier road, but instead work together to do the right thing! #saveagato
1965	Please stop what are you planning to do with the cats. I am a resident of old San Juan and I assure you those cats don't do any harm to anyone. Please!
1966	I'm writing to express my objections to the proposal to remove the cats from Paseo del Morro. I've been traveling to Puerto Rico from North Carolina for the past 7 years and enjoy visiting the cats on every trip. I support Save a Gato and all the work they do to take care of the cats. Every time I walk at Paseo del Morro I see many other visitors who love the cats as well. The cats are one of my favorite things about visiting San Juan and it would be heartbreaking if they were gone.
1967	A walk every day to the trails of El Morro and the cats are my therapy. I feel so happy and relax when I touch this wonderful animals. Please, don't remove this angels from El Morro. Thanks!!!!
1968	<p>As a resident of San Juan, I can vouch for the importance of conserving the lives and quality of life of our feline friends in Old San Juan and in all of the island. They are lives that do not deserve to be exterminated and/or displaced out of their homes. Plain and simple. I vehemently oppose their removal and I am appalled that this is even being considered as an option.</p> <p>Our cats have a right to live and there are various organizations as well as citizens and residents that work really hard to make sure these colonies are taken care of and to teach people how to care for these animals.</p> <p>These cats don't cause any issues, and this proposal will harm communities and worsen the situation for outdoor and homeless animals in the whole island. It's an extremely dangerous precedent and it violates the laws that we have in place for the benefit of animals and the laws that ensure animal lives are not harmed.</p> <p>Not only is this against our laws and the spirit of our anti cruelty laws, it's also morally wrong. This proposal is inhumane and it's not thoroughly vetted by a committee of impartial veterinarians, animal welfare professionals, ecologists, social and urban planners, animal welfare organizations and lawyers, and residents. Efforts should be made to improve their quality of life and this proposal is centered on harming our communities.</p> <p>These cats help with pest control too, they add character and charm to our city and it's tourism industry, and their lives and homes matter.</p> <p>Please do not do this to our animals and to our city. Respect us.</p>
1969	These resources would be better spent assisting saveagato in their TNR procedures. The cats provide extra benefits to the area against rodents and pests that carry diseases and infect at a much more alarming rate. Aside from their utility the cats also provide tourists with another sight to see. I've visited the area with my girlfriend and they were the primary reason we went we got to feed them and pet them. None posed any risks to our safety and there was no notable smell that imposed on our trip.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	This seems like such a small issue compared to the many problems facing Puerto Rico right now. If the funds exists use them to aid the locals in their endeavors instead of remedying a handful of tourists' complaints.
1970	Please save the cats. These beautiful animals have history in San Juan, just as humans do. Save A Gato (SAG) has done an amazing job to save Puerto Rico's homeless and abused cats through TNR. Thank you.
1971	<p>Hello!</p> <p>I am fully opposed to the new measure proposed for dealing with Free-ranging Cats in the Paseo La Princesa in the Old San Juan.</p> <p>I am fully against having the animals removed or killed.</p> <p>In place of this measure, I propose that any funds be used towards more aggressively capturing, sterilizing, and returning them to this park.</p> <p>Best,</p>
1972	I have lived in San Juan for 50 years and frequently visit the paseo de El Morro in Old San Juan. I am opposed to any management plans and methods that seek to remove and much less euthanize the cats. They don't bother, and are well cared for, including neutering to control population growth. Removing them will not stop new cats being abandoned there, the problem is the people and the government who don't treat these creatures in a humane and responsible way. The cats have become part of the paseo and pose no danger. The rescuers and carers should be supported for their volunteer work.
1973	I lived in Viejo San Juan for almost 4 years. One of the highlights of the community is the pride folks feel for the way cats are taken care of. I donated often to Save a Gato and visited the area to watch them play. It seems there are other ways to better support VSJ. The kitties are an important part of the vibe around town.
1974	Stop the killing of stray cats in Old San Juan.
1975	I would like to appeal in behalf of Save a Gato and every cat from OSJ. Please I beg for a relocation plan. this is the highlight of our vacations. visiting these babies. we are active contributors to the cause. killing these innocent creatures will be an evil act.
1976	Please stop the proposal to remove the TNR cats from Old San Juan! They help control the mice population, are neutered/spayed and are very important for local tourism. Not only that, but they've been a part of that community for more than half a century. Please consider all the displaced cats that will be left without a home and euthanized if this proposal continues
1977	I object to having the Viejo San Juan cat population taken from their environment, when they are one of the attractions to the public and are excellent at keeping the pests at bay. I would rather the funds for this operation be given to Save a Gato and other animal welfare orgs so they can continue with TNR projects and taking care of the cat population in VSJ.
1978	the cats in old san juan are a pleasure and have been their long before the US even owned puerto rico. They pose no threat to tourists or the historical landmarks
1979	I am writing to convey my support of Save a Gato and to encourage the NPS to work with the organization to find a solution that does not involve the Paseo cats' removal. Seeing the cats on the Paseo is one of my favorite memories of all time. I visited in 2018, so the cat population and feeding stations were well-established. The feeding stations were neat and I distinctly remember there being no smell. These cats are well-cared for and should be allowed to continue living.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>I understand from the newsletter that there are concerns. These concerns can and should be addressed without removal of the cats.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>Like any other free-ranging animal within any National Park, visitors can be expected to maintain a certain level of behavior that will prevent harm to the visitor as well as the animal. Most cats that might show defensive behaviors towards people, such as the biting or scratching mentioned, generally keep themselves far away from the visitors.</p> <p>The cats are well cared for and vaccinated against many of the diseases listed in the newsletter. With many of these parasites or diseases, visitors should be expected to maintain reasonable behaviors to prevent infection as they do when visiting any National Park or public place.</p> <p>According to the newsletter, threats to other wildlife species have not been studied at this park. I would hope that the NPS would conduct research based on the free-ranging cats at the Paseo before taking action. In addition, the rats mentioned as a concern are present in all large cities and could be addressed with Save a Gato by changing the feeding station set up.</p> <p>Finally, it is concerning to me that one of the reasons listed for eliminating the TNR program is that even the potentially adoptable cats do not have enough homes. TNR is a reasonable response to the lack of homes; removing the cats and eliminating this well-maintained cat colony on the Paseo would result in MORE cats not having homes, not less.</p> <p>Please consider using the money allotted to pay for a contracted removal company to continue your work with Save a Gato. They are doing an incredible job supporting the Old San Juan community and the Paseo.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
1980	<p>No puedes eliminar los osos de Yellowstone, no puedes eliminar los animales en general de nuestros parques. Los gatos son animales domésticos que eliminan las plagas, las que que sí hacen daño al ambiente y al ser humano. Hacer un santuario y atraer el turismo sería la mejor opción para Parques Nacionales. ¿Quién lo mantendría? Estamos seguros que muchas compañías, municipio de San Juan y personas en su carácter privado estarían dispuestas a ayudar y fomentar la castración. Sabemos que hay una fuerza MAYOR QUE QUIERE ELIMINAR LOS GATOS DEL VIEJO SAN JUAN. Esa fue la gran pregunta que NO se contesto en la audiencia del pasado 3 de noviembre de 2022 y en la que estuve presente. La aniquilación de los gatos no los eliminara por completo, espero lo comprendan. Si a un santuario protegido.</p>
1981	<p>Please do not move forward with the cat removal plan. The cats are not threatening to humans and many visitors come to the Paseo to see them. Please allow Save a Gato to continue the work they have been doing and raise awareness so that they can get more resources and volunteers to support their mission of caring for the cats.</p>
1982	<p>I visited Puerto Rico for the first time in May 2022. We were staying near Old San Juan, and the best part of my visit was the cats on the el Paseo del Morro trail. These cats made the entire visit so special.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>I was so impressed by Save A Gato and their work to have a healthy, sterilized cat population.</p> <p>Since then, I have told so many to visit this area in Puerto Rico. Please keep the cats on this trail as they make this area come alive and are not a disturbance in my experience and in the experience of those who have visited.</p> <p>Thanks for taking this into consideration.</p>
1983	<p>Considero que permitirle un parque a los gatos realengos en plan promovirá la educación con respecto a su bienestar y crear conciencia con respecto a la sobrepoblación. Evidentemente, impactará a las generaciones del presente y del futuro. Espero que consideren el plan que promueve saveagato, es muy imprencindible.</p>
1984	<p>This cat's are part of the OSJ experience. They deserve to be there!</p>
1985	<p>Por favor, no maten los gatos del Viejo San Juan.</p>
1986	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My husband and I love coming to your city each year on holiday. The main focus point of our visit is spending time with the cats of San Juan. They are such a draw and are beloved by so many millions of visitors. I can confidently tell you that I would not be able to return to your city if the presence of the cats changed in any way. Save a Gato does amazing work taking care of these cats which so much joy to many. Any cat lover can see how much they care. Please please, recognize the importance of the cats and the work this organization does to protect them and make it such a wonderful place to visit.</p> <p>Best,</p>
1987	<p>Me parece horrible lo que quieren hacer con los gatos del paseo del morro. Cuando visito a la isla me encanta ir para ver los gatos. Seria, en mi opinion, un gran error de matar a los pobres gatos que siempre han vivido ahi. Ellos tienen caretakers y estan operados. PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THEM! LET THEM LIVE THERE AS THEY HAVE.</p>
1988	<p>SaveaGato es una comunidad de voluntarios muy organizados y ejemplares. Por veinte años han logrado esterilizar miles de gatos extranjeros y crear un santuario de muy buena reputación a la cual le encantan los turistas y las cientos de familias que van diariamente. Sería un grave horror eliminar esta bella comunidad que brinda tanta alegría y tantos servicios voluntarios a la isla. Tuve la gran oportunidad de convertirme en Foster parent de uno de sus gatos y fue la experiencia más bonita y reveladora que he tenido. Me percaté de la gran ayuda que estas personas tan abnegadas proveen. Minimizan la sobre-población de los gatos de una forma duradera y humana. A largo plazo, están logrando grandes esfuerzos. No tan solo esterilizan a los gatos, les buscan hogares permanentes que alegran a cientos de familias. Soy de Dorado, pero sé que no soy la única que voy San Juan nada más para visitar el santuario de los gatos. Es una gran atracción y San Juan no sería lo mismo sin este santuario. No tan solo para los locales, sino también a los turistas les encantan visitarlos. Si buscas "cosas para hacer en Puerto Rico" una de las cosas que sale una y otra vez es visitar SaveaGato al lado del Morro. Reconsideren estas decisiones y demuestren su humanidad una vez y por todo.</p>
1989	<p>Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
1990	<p>Cats form a big part of our lives and our ecosystem. Cities like Paris, Manhattan, and even Río Piedras here in San Juan, PR are a healing presence all around us. In their own way, they are able to boost the morale of communities with their mere presence. They might be endearing and friendly to those gentle and patient enough.</p> <p>Simultaneously, cats can be beneficial and useful to communities in a more pragmatic way. Cats can be employed not only as emotional support animals but also as a natural means of pest control and even neighborhood safety. They seek out vermin like rats and lizards that would otherwise be annoying to deal with by themselves, which not only is good for us, but good for the creature because they can hone in the skills they're born with as a predator. They can also be beacons of help and light in times of tragedy (i can attest to this myself) by warning their persons about dangers, like a possible malignant force and some of them can even detect changes in health</p> <p>Cats keep us safe, they make us smile. They are deeply complex, intelligent animals we should keep near us.</p>
1991	<p>I strongly reject the recent proposal to remove the cats from San Juan. I know that these cats may not be living the luxurious lives that many pet cats get to live; however, their lives are just as important and we must approach this situation with care! We need resources devoted to sterilizing these cats in order to limit the growth of the population--getting rid of them is not a proper solution! Interacting with these cats was one of the highlights of my trip to San Juan and as a cat owner I cannot bear to think of these poor cats being 'removed'. Please do not move forward with this proposal!</p>
1992	<p>Greetings!</p> <p>I want to express my support for the cats living free in Old San Juan. The cats are being take care of from "Save a Gato" and many people from the San Juan and nearby areas. They have been neuter (Trap-Neuter-Release) for many years. They are part of the cultural life and also, help avoid a rat's plague. As we know, rats spread many diseases like leptospirosis.</p> <p>Please, let us have them as part of our San Juan's cultural life!</p> <p>Best regards,</p>
1993	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I would like to place a comment advocating against the removal of the cats from El Morro. The funding that would be allocated for their removal should be reallocated to support the trap, neuter, and release program for the cats.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
1994	<p>I love El Morro and Paseo La Princesa cats. Since forever they have been an integral part of the city. I am TOTALLY not in accord of the plan to displace them. Those cats are well cared for, keep the rats at bay and are BEAUTIFUL. Please consider that we the people of Puerto Rico want them there. Thank you very much.</p>
1995	<p>The cats or San Juan was a large part of the reason my family and I traveled to Puerto Rico! These cats were so friendly and very well taken care of. They made the trip one of a kind and I would love to visit these little kitties in the near future! Keep the cats! :)</p>
1996	<p>Please do not remove the cat colonies from Paseo Del Morro and surrounding areas! Save A Gato and others, work tirelessly and have for years to protect and give those cats the best life possible. I have never seen such dedication. We are from California and have been to San Juan twice in the past 5 years. Seeing the kitties is always such a highlight of our trip and I</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	know it is for many others! They are well cared for and not hurting anyone. Please leave them be!
1997	Please do not remove the cats. They add so much life and charm to the area surrounding the site. The cats are after all these years a part of the natural attraction to the area. Part of Puerto Rico's culture and history at the site. It would be a shame if they are removed.
1998	El santuario de gatos de San Juan es una muy relevante atracción para locales y turistas. Añade valor y personalidad a nuestra ciudad histórica. Gracias a la dedicada organización SaveAGato, cientos de familias han podido adoptar su nuevo miembro felino. Sería una lástima que se elimine esta oportunidad a tantos gatos y familias. El público aprecia el santuario y queremos mantenerlo!
1999	soy residente del municipio de san Juan. Me opongo a la remocion de los gatos del paseo del morro, pues estos ya han vivido en el area por decadas y no presentan ningun riesgo a la sociedad. La organizacion Save a Gato se ha encargado de la esterilizacion, vacunacion, cuidado y comida de los felinos, por lo que no es necesario recurrir a medidas como la remocion. El paseo del morro es un mejor lugar, libre de ratas u otros animales que si transmiten enfermedades como la leptospirosis. Los residentes de san juan exigimos que se nos escuche y que se respete el habitat de los felinos!
2000	Those cats pose no threat to the people in Old San juan. I am a student at the School of Plastic Arts and Design, the place where the cats most frequent. I have never heard anyone complain about the cats, they are welcomed. Killing the cats would be heartbreaking for many people, including myself. Also, Save a Gato has done so much to help those cats and killing them would mean all their hard work has gone to waste. Killing cats is not the solution, creating a better strategy for them to have a family and be adopted would be much wiser. Killing them is the easy and way out. It approaches them as a problem in need of solving instead of the worthy living creatures they are.
2001	Not at favor of killing cats, if we don't got cats there's gonna be rats.
2002	Hello, Im a resident of San Juan and have visited this park recently and many times since it's opening. During a walk through the entire route I encountered a couple of cats around 4-5. The cat's precense was not intrusive, the animals were resting in the rocks by the sea and sitting by the sidewalk. I believe them being there keeps insects and pests such as mice under control in this portion of the park, it also made the walk really nice as i took pictures of them in the landscape. I'm against the removal of the cats as presented in this proposal and I believe they should be kept in location and even increase the resources for the animals's feeding to be more permanent and resilient.
2003	hay muchos puntos para desalentar la eliminación del proyecto save a gato y seguir adelante con "ninguna acción" como se indica en el folleto proporcionado. 1. La presencia de los gatos en todos los lugares históricos de Puerto Rico son un ícono cultural. Al crecer alrededor de ellos, sé que no son una molestia. De hecho, ayudan a mantener el área limpia al eliminar plagas como ratas e iguanas. Además, muchos turistas viajan para visitar esta zona icónica solo para los gatos. Llevar dinero a la isla. 2. El plan de acción propuesto que se indica en el folleto no erradica la presencia de gatos callejeros. Para hacerlo, debe comenzar brindando recursos educativos a todas las comunidades, desde el preescolar hasta la edad adulta, para comprender cómo cuidar a los felinos desde la etapa de gatito hasta la edad adulta, asegurándose de que estén esterilizados/castrados y que no se queden fuera de sus hogares. Además de la educación, debe proporcionar refugios del condado que permitan a las personas adoptar y, si es necesario, tener un lugar para entregar a sus mascotas (incluidos los gatos) sin dejarlos afuera. 3. El plan de acción propuesto para retirar a los gatos es absolutamente inhumano para los animales y no solo perturbaría el ecosistema de los gatos

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>sino también el de otros animales salvajes de la zona. Es muy bárbaro derogar los gatos y eliminar completamente las estaciones de alimentación. ¿Es mejor ver un gato callejero bien alimentado, o preferirías que los turistas vean un gato esquelético y piensen que los puertorriqueños son personas inhumanas? 4. otros países pueden tener grandes comunidades de felinos sin ningún problema, ¿por qué es una preocupación tan grande en Puerto Rico? ¿Estamos tratando de adaptarnos a la cultura estadounidense de erradicar todo lo natural y hermoso? ¿Ese es el Puerto Rico en el que estamos tratando de convertirnos? 5. La información proporcionada sobre salud y seguridad es sembradora de miedo y no ayuda en el esfuerzo de educar a la comunidad. hay mejores alternativas que eliminar una población de gatos callejeros. Puerto Rico necesita hacer cumplir leyes más estrictas en sus ciudadanos sobre el bienestar animal y pensar lógicamente sobre cómo funciona la comunidad y cómo educar a la comunidad para evitar grandes poblaciones de gatos callejeros. Save a Gato está haciendo un trabajo increíble y solo pueden continuar haciéndolo si cuentan con el apoyo de la comunidad.</p>
2004	<p>TNR is the solution!!! Save a Gato has been doing an exceptional job helping cats for years!! We need to educate people on this and we need to do something about people abandoning cats and dogs, thats the real issue. Stop spreading wrong info to the people.</p>
2005	<p>The cats around Old San Juan are loved and taken care of by Save a Gato and the community. When you walk around you clearly see bowls of food and water put out by the residents and local business. Not only do they keep the historic Old San Juan cleaned from pests like rats and roaches, but they're also historical members of the community, a part of what makes Old San Juan what it is. Removing the cats from the area would be to strip the city of its culture and authenticity, while inviting disease in. Besides bringing a smile to everyone who visits and happens to catch a glimpse at one, they're a part of what connects Puerto Ricans, in particular Sanjuaneros, to our city's past. If their numbers are such a problem, perhaps there should be a spay & adopt-a-thon, instead of out right removal and euthenization. Should any cats remain they should be sent to adoption centers on and off the island. The proposed plan is short-sighted and functions more like a bandage that in 5 years will come undone; the cats are going to come back. Any alternative plan, that does not involve the killing of 100's of cats, should also be paid for by the government, with the same funds that were to be put into their euthanization; or optionally just leave them alone. The euthenization of these cats are not the solution for animal control. What happens in five years from now? We'll be back at this same spot. Spay and adoption are the only options.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and considerarion.</p>
2006	<p>As resident of San Juan since 1993 I've never seen as an issue the presence of the cats that habitat VSJ. O. The contrary they are a joy to have around. They help with the amount of rats and pest that can roam around. And maintain our areas clean from plagues. VSJ are known for the presence of our cats and they are part of our community. They SHOULDN'T be abolished. I am NOT in favor of this act.</p>
2007	<p>I wish they would let the cats stay. They bring joy and smiles to so many people. They are well cared for by Save A Gato.</p>
2008	<p>Please do not remove these cats they are part of The landscape of the area and are well cared For please Do not relive these cats I beg you</p>
2009	<p>Asi como tienen el parque de las palomas, hagan un parque para los gatitos. Ellos se pueden esterelizar & castrar, luego se sueltan en San Juan.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2010	<p>Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas.</p> <p>Los gatos del Viejo San Juan nerecen vivir...Our cats of Old San Juan City deserve to live!!!</p>
2011	<p>The cats of Old San Juan have lived peacefully in the streets of the old city for many years. They are an iconic part of the experience of the "Paseo de la Princesa" and the neighboring streets.</p> <p>These cats are beloved by the residents and many visitors of Old San Juan. Old San Juan is their home.</p> <p>The organization Save a Gato does an amazing job doing TNR, feeding and veterinary care for sick cats. They also do an amazing job finding forever homes for those cats that are not part of the colony.</p> <p>My own cat used to be on the streets of Old San Juan, due to some irresponsible person that abandoned her. Without the amazing effort of that organization and the volunteers, many cats like my own would find themselves starving or in line to die in a shelter because they are at capacity.</p> <p>I volunteered in Old San Juan for the organization and they have everything under control. I witnessed first hand the amazing job they do and how much care the cats of the colony receive from the people.</p> <p>The removal of this colony is absolutely devastating. There is nothing humane about killing innocent animals. Im</p> <p>The cats should remain as they are and continue to receive the love and care of Save a Gato, the residents, and visitors.</p> <p>Better efforts should be made in order to hold responsible those who abandon their pets in Old San Juan and anywhere in the island. Better lighting and security, cameras for surveillance, sanctioning whoever is caught abandoning an a animal, etc. Many other options should be taken into consideration that don't involve displacing or killing the animals.</p>
2012	<p>I'm writing to express my deep opposition to the plan to remove the cats from El Paseo in Old San Juan. These cats cause no harm to others and are innocent, sentient beings whose lives matter. Removing them will also remove a special and unique part of the experience of walking in the streets of El Viejo San Juan. Additionally, the Save A Gato organization has been working to manage the cat population in a more humane way, by sterilization. I ask you to please reconsider this proposal and seek an alternative, more humane plan for the cat population of this area.</p>
2013	<p>I, as a concerned citizen, oppose to the latest proposal regarding the cats from El Morro. Organizations like Save a Gato have worked tirelessly for the well-being of the cats and keep doing so.</p>
2014	<p>Si en algo estoy orgullosa de mi isla es del paseo del gato y de como personas con un corazón inmenso donan de su tiempo y de su dinero para cuidar de ellos, fui a P.R. El año pasado con mi esposo el cual nunca había ido a la isla porque es norteamericano su cara de felicidad al ver a Los Gatos tan bien cuidados, incluso hablamos con las voluntarias y su dedicación es contagiosa al punto que ahora nosotros aportamos nuestro granito de arena a esta hermosa causa. El paseo de Los Gatos es parte de nuestra cultura es lo que nos representa con la empatía y humanidad que nos distingue como Puertorriqueños. Confio en que nuestros gatos</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>seguirán viviendo en su hermoso castillo a la orilla de la playa la próxima vez que visite a Puerto Rico y que voy a volver a caminar entre ellos y a disfrutar de su compañía.</p>
2015	<p>On behalf of American Bird Conservancy, I am writing to express support for the National Park Service's (NPS) proposed action for the purpose of addressing free-ranging cat populations within San Juan National Historic Site. The proposed action, including cat removal, feeding station removal, and monitoring, are consistent with the best available science regarding free-ranging cat management and NPS duties regarding the protection of cultural and natural resources and park staff and visitors.</p> <p>Domestic cats (<i>Felis catus</i>) can make wonderful pets but are among the world's most harmful invasive species. Free-ranging cats have contributed to the extinction of at least 63 species worldwide and are the top source of direct, anthropogenic bird mortality in the United States (Doherty et al. 2016; Loss et al. 2015). In the United States alone, free-ranging cats are estimated to kill 2.4 billion birds and 12.3 billion mammals every year (Loss et al. 2013).</p> <p>In addition to direct predation, free-ranging cats can disrupt ecosystems. Through fear-based effects, the mere presence of free-ranging cats can modify bird behavior and reproductive success (Bonnington et al. 2013). Free-ranging cat predation can also extirpate certain species and compete with native predators, both of which may then cause cascading trophic effects resulting in modified species assemblages (e.g., George 1974; Crooks and Soule 1999; Hawkins et al. 2004).</p> <p>Free-ranging cats are also a risk to wildlife and people through the transmission of a variety of infectious parasites and diseases (e.g., cat-scratch disease, typhus, giardia). For example, cats are the top carrier of rabies among domestic animals in the United States and disproportionately expose more people to the disease than wildlife (Roebeling et al. 2014). In Puerto Rico, there have been 55 rabid domestic cats since 2000. According to the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) Compendium on Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, community protection from rabies requires that every cat be vaccinated initially, re-vaccinated after one year, and subsequently re-vaccinated in accordancy with vaccine manufacturer recommendations (NASPHV 2016). The NASPHV also recommends that stray cats be removed from the environment.</p> <p>Cats are also a definitive host for the parasite (<i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>) that causes toxoplasmosis. This parasite can only sexually reproduce in the gut of a feline. A single cat may excrete up to hundreds of millions of <i>T. gondii</i> oocysts, which remain infectious in the environment for months to years and can infect any bird or mammal. Infection in people may result in as little as flu-like symptoms or be as severe as death, and infection risk (e.g., miscarriage) is the reason pregnant women are advised to avoid changing cat litter (Aguirre et al. 2019). Free-ranging cats, however, will defecate across the landscape, contaminating the terrestrial, freshwater, and marine environments for years, which may result in widespread human and wildlife exposures.</p> <p>The removal of free-ranging cats from the environment is the most effective strategy for free-ranging cat population reduction and is in accordance with guidance by organizations such as the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and United States Department of Agriculture (AFWA 2020; USDA 2021). Although trap, neuter, release (TNR) programs have been promoted by certain organizations, research has overwhelmingly found such programs inadequate in reducing cat populations, an observation that is consistent with data from San</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Juan National Historic Site (e.g., Castillo and Clarke 2003; Foley et al. 2005; Longcore et al. 2009). Furthermore, TNR programs purposely maintain cats roaming the landscape, where predation, disease transmission, and other risks persist for the duration of the cat's presence. Alternatively, as has been proposed by the NPS, cat removal has been successful on at least 48 islands and has resulted in positive outcomes for native wildlife (Nogales et al. 2004).</p> <p>American Bird Conservancy appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments in support of NPS' proposed action to address free-ranging cat populations within San Juan National Historic Site. The proposed action are consistent with the best available science and NPS' mission, including providing for visitor and staff safety and the protection of cultural and natural resources.</p> <p>Literature Cited</p> <p>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). 2020. Toolkit to address free-ranging domestic cats (<i>Felis catus</i>) on agency lands managed for native wildlife and ecosystem health. 32 p.</p> <p>Aguirre A.A., T. Longcore, M. Barbieri, H. Dabritz, D. Hill, P.N. Klein, C. Lepczyk, E.L. Lilly, R. McLeod, J. Milcarsky, C.E. Murphy, C. Su, E. VanWormer, R. Yolken, and G.C. Sizemore. 2019. The One Health approach to toxoplasmosis: epidemiology, control, and prevention strategies. <i>EcoHealth</i> 16: 378-390.</p> <p>Bonnington C., K.J. Gaston, and K.L. Evans. 2013. Fearing the feline: domestic cats reduce avian fecundity through trait-mediated indirect effects that increase nest predation by other species. <i>Journal of Applied Ecology</i> 50: 15-24.</p> <p>Castillo D. and A.L. Clarke. 2003. Trap/Neuter/Release methods ineffective in controlling domestic cat "colonies" on public lands. <i>Natural Areas Journal</i> 23: 247-253.</p> <p>Crooks K.R. and M.E. Soule. 1999. Mesopredator release and avifaunal extinctions in a fragmented system. <i>Nature</i> 400: 563-566.</p> <p>Doherty T.S., A.S. Glen, D.G. Nimmo, E.G. Ritchie, and C.R. Dickman. 2016. Invasive predators and global biodiversity loss. <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i> 113: 11261-11265.</p> <p>Foley P., J.E. Foley, J.K. Levy, and T. Paik. 2005. Analysis of the impact of trap-neuter-return programs on populations of feral cats. <i>Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association</i> 227: 1775-1781.</p> <p>George W.G. 1974. Domestic cats as predators and factors in Winter shortages of raptor prey. <i>Wilson Bulletin</i> 86: 384-396.</p> <p>Hawkins C.C., W.E. Grant, and M.T. Longnecker. 2004. Effect of house cats, being fed in parks, on California birds and rodents. Pages 164-170 in <i>Proceedings of the 4th International Urban Wildlife Symposium</i> (Shaw et al., Eds.). University of Arizona, Tucson.</p> <p>Longcore T., C. Rich, and L.M. Sullivan. 2009. Critical assessment of claims regarding management of feral cats by trap-neuter-return. <i>Conservation Biology</i> 23: 887-894.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Loss S.R., T. Will, and P.P. Marra. 2013. The impact of free-ranging domestic cats on wildlife of the United States. <i>Nature Communications</i> 4:1396.</p> <p>Loss S.R., T. Will, and P.P. Marra. 2015. Direct mortality of birds from anthropogenic sources. <i>Annual Reviews</i> 46: 99-120.</p> <p>National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV). 2016. Compendium on animal rabies prevention and control, 2016. <i>Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association</i> 248: 505-517.</p> <p>Nogales M., A. Martin, B.R. Tershy, C.J. Donlan, D. Veitch, N. Puerta, B. Wood, and J. Alonso. 2004. A review of feral cat eradication on islands. <i>Conservation Biology</i> 18: 310-319.</p> <p>Roebling A.D., D. Johnson, J.D. Blanton, M. Levin, D. Slate, G. Fenwick, and C.E. Rupprecht. 2014. Rabies prevention and management of cats in the context of trap-neuter-vaccinate-release programmes. <i>Zoonoses and Public Health</i> 61: 290-296.</p> <p>United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). 2021. Free-ranging and feral cats. <i>Wildlife Damage Management Technical Series</i>.</p>
2016	<p>I don't understand why they can't leave the cats live there in peace, they are healthy, they are being cared for and tk me they make the place more beautiful and fun! Please let them live there and let them be free, that is their home. We have severe laws against animal abuse here in PR and yet, this happens and what will be done with these cats? will they be killed? Please save the cats!</p>
2017	<p>Familia,</p> <p>I believe now is the time to deliver justice and equity not only for our Puerto Rican community, but for the animals that unfortunately have been mistreated, abandoned; having the thought to eliminate these cats that are very important to the community, is not the right way. I believe there is other ways and solutions to maintain each cat within the same habitat, but eliminating them is not the solution. I am joining from the Diáspora in solidarity. I am against of any process of elimination towards each cat in Viejo San Juan, Puerto Rico.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
2018	<p>En contra de remover los gatos</p>
2019	<p>These cats are part of the Old San Juan since I can remember. They are well taken care of by the people at save a gato and fed. They are not violent. Actually a lot of kids and adults enjoy walking by the "cat street" Getting rid of them would be cruel to the cats, the people who devote their time to taking care of them, and the people who enjoy their company.</p>
2020	<p>Buenas tardes</p> <p>Esos Gatitos siempre estan atendidos por la fundación save a Gato</p>
2021	<p>Los gatitos son parte de nuestra tan bella ciudad amurallada! No hacen daño y ayudan a controlar plagas!</p>
2022	<p>Please work with cat advocacy groups and people to get the cat colony all spayed/neutered and healthy but able to stay where they currently live, it's their home. Responsible and</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>compassionate handling of the cat colony would be an amazing gesture and the right thing to do. I've followed (and donated to when able) Save A Gato for years and have great respect for all they do for the cats and pet owners who live there. Thanks for reading. I hope to visit one day!</p>
2023	<p>Those cats dont bother anybody. Leave them there. They only need help to be sterilized and Vaccinated.</p>
2024	<p>The cats are well cared for, vaccinated and most are spayed or neutered. Save a Gato does an excellent job of TNR relying on donations, no help from the government. The cats are an important part of the ecosystem, keeping rodent and insect populations low. Diseases would spread if the cats are removed and the city would have to deal with mice and insects in large quantities. The cats add a special charm and magic to the area.</p> <p>I was a SAG volunteer for four years and I believe the cats should stay.</p>
2025	<p>Please save the lives of those precious cats. They are a beautiful animal and deserve to stay in their home.</p>
2026	<p>San Juan National Historic Site Free-roaming cat management plan Scoping Comments submitted by the Humane Society of the United States</p> <p>The Humane Society of the United States appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments on the San Juan National Historic Site free-ranging cat management proposal. The mission of the HSUS extends to both wild and domestic animals and with that we recognize that managing free-roaming cats is a complex issue with many stakeholders and varying perspectives. Yet overall, stakeholders can agree that fewer free-roaming cats is a goal to which we all aspire.</p> <p>We submit these comments based on both the current scientific literature and our extensive experience with the management of free-roaming cats and the professional field of animal sheltering. While NPS has predicted a finding of 'No Significant Impact' for outlined Proposed Action, it would be remiss to not point out that such a finding does not mean that the Proposed Action will be effective in achieving the stated goals. Indeed, we strongly recommend that additional alternatives be considered which do not include the forced removal of the resident cats. In practice, trap and remove plans results in significant number of cats being euthanized, which is an unpopular outcome with the public.</p> <p>Any realistic plan to manage free-roaming cats must recognize the need to engage in continuous management efforts and the degree of public affection for cats. The cats of Old San Juan are iconic and a well-known and welcomed feature of the city for tourists and residents alike. Encouraging caring people to disregard their concern for cats is rarely effective for many reasons. We encourage you to continue to work with Save A Gato (SAG) and with other organizations with expertise in free-roaming cat management to develop alternative actions.</p> <p>Your Environmental Assessment should include a full assessment of the problem, identify site-specific causes including anthropogenic sources of cat population expansion, document cat-caused wildlife mortality at SJNHS, and substantiate the detrimental impact of free-roaming cats on native species within the park boundaries. Substantiation of the problem should also include documentation of human health and safety incidents within park boundaries related to the presence of free-roaming cats, site-specific impacts of free-roaming</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>cats on cultural resources of SJNHS and a catalog actual versus perceived threats.</p> <p>Consider that rabies is rare in domestic cats and that there has not been a confirmed case of cat-to-human rabies transmission in the United States in nearly 50 years. Rabies risk is further reduced through vaccination, which is included in trap-neuter-return (TNR) management. Global rabies eradication programs have achieved success through vaccination of free-roaming dogs and cats and their removal is not recommended as an effective strategy. Any risks used to support a Proposed Action should be realistic.</p> <p>Non-lethal, Trap-Neuter-Return-based management is effective for population control. The scoping notice states that TNR only works in closed environments, however TNR has been effective in open environments. Some documented examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community cat program at the University of Central Florida launched in the 1990s reduced cat population by 85%. [1, 2] • A population of over 300 cats in Newburyport, MA was eliminated through a concerted TNR effort paired with rehoming of adoptable kittens. [3] • A 67% decrease in cat population was found in a Chicago neighborhood targeted for TNR, over the course of 8 years. [4] • A study of TNR in rural North Carolina compared the impact of TNR with control groups. There was a 36% mean decrease where TNR was employed (range 30-89%) versus a 47% mean increase of control groups – where the actual increases across the three sites were 31%, 127%, 283%. <p>Given proven success, TNR-based management should not be ruled out, rather the implementation may need to be refined and adjusted. TNR-based strategies should be adapted over time based on monitoring data and specifics of the local environment. To be most impactful, TNR does need to be conducted at a high-intensity and ensure a high sterilization rate is maintained over time. SAG has maintained a high sterilization rate; however, population levels at SJNHS have been offset by the addition of new cats to the area through immigration and abandonment.</p> <p>Strategies to address immigration and abandonment of cats is needed. The same challenges faced in TNR management strategies will continue with the Proposed Action, as SJNHS is not a closed system. Eradication of free-roaming cats has not been successful in any environment like SJNHS and is unlikely to be successful at SJNHS since there are no barriers for cats to reenter the property. Any plan must adequately address immigration and abandonment of cats, neither of which can be eliminated simply by the actions outlined in the Proposed Action. With the phased approach of the Proposed Action, no long-term effort is outlined for keeping cats from reentering SJNHS, which cats can do simply by crossing over a street.</p> <p>In recent years, Puerto Rico has experienced a series of devastating hurricanes, island-wide power outages, and an economic crisis. Economic instability contributes to an increase in pet abandonment, which then increases the efforts needed for free-roaming cat management to be effective. The factors contributing to the abandonment of pets are complex and not limited to those cats who may end up at SJNHS. Thus, the removal of feeding stations and use of repellents within park boundaries are not likely to impact the abandonment of cats on or adjacent to NPS property. The feeding of cats on land adjacent to SJNHS will no doubt continue, as compassionate residents will take action to ensure the free-roaming cats have</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>access to food and drinking water.</p> <p>Alternative actions could include working with SAG and San Juan city government to place signs around SJNHS to discourage cat abandonment and provide information on alternatives. NPS could support efforts that address the root cause of free-roaming cats taking up residence at SJNHP, rather than simply trying to create a barrier between the historic site and the city that created it.</p> <p>Need for accurate population estimate and ongoing monitoring The original MOU with SAG only indicates the population of cats along Paseo del Morro, and not the population within the entire SJNHS, which is what is referenced in the scoping document. It is thus unclear how the population has changed over time. Better documentation of the population is needed. We recommend employing a more robust cat count and ongoing population monitoring based on the methodologies developed by the DC Cat Count, a research project specifically exploring free-roaming cat populations. [5] (See also dccatcount.org)</p> <p>Modify feeding rather than abrupt elimination The 2005 MOU between NPS and SAG states that 8 feeding stations will be maintained, while the recent scoping notice claims that only 5 feeding stations were approved at that time and further implies SAG to be violating the agreement by currently operating 7 feeding stations. Given the number of cats estimated to be located on SJNHS, reducing the number of feeding stations only serve to increase density of cats at those locations and thus concentrating the impact.</p> <p>Concerns about transmission of toxoplasmosis may also be reduced through managed feeding programs. The cats residing in and around SJNHS are fed a commercially prepared cat food, and thus are less likely to hunt and be exposed to the <i>T. gondii</i> parasite. [6, 7] Several studies indicate that managed cat communities pose a lower risk of exposure to <i>T. gondii</i> than unmanaged cat populations. [8, 9]</p> <p>We encourage NPS to work with SAG to outline feeding station protocols that would limit the amount of food to only that which can be consumed in short periods each day to avoid attracting rats, wildlife and other cats. Additionally, feeding stations could be relocated or camouflaged to areas where they are less visible to park visitors, or situated in ways where they do not encourage cats to congregate in larger groups.</p> <p>Community engagement The SJNHS should foster relationships with the community, provide ample opportunities for input and collaboration, and seek to build trust with the site's neighbors. The public open house sessions planned in conjunction with the scoping notice was circulated only days before the events and didn't provide the opportunity residents clearly wanted to voice their concerns. Any proposed action should be developed in direct consultation with existing partners, industry experts and local stakeholders. Given the park's close proximity to homes and businesses and the substantial population of free-roaming cats throughout the Old San Juan historic area, it is imperative that any plan to manage cats within the park boundaries not be created in a bubble.</p> <p>We encourage NPS to continue to have substantive conversations about possible alternative</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>actions with community members before any EA is issued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. Levy, J.K., D.W. Gale, and L.A. Gale, Evaluation of the effect of a long-term trap-neuter-return and adoption program on a free-roaming cat population. <i>Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association</i>, 2003. 222(1): p. 42-46. • 2. Spehar, D.D. and P.J. Wolf, Back to School: An Updated Evaluation of the Effectiveness of a Long-Term Trap-Neuter-Return Program on a University's Free-Roaming Cat Population. 2019. 9(10): p. 768. • 3. Spehar, D. and P. Wolf, An Examination of an Iconic Trap-Neuter-Return Program: The Newburyport, Massachusetts Case Study. <i>Animals</i>, 2017. 7(11): p. 81. • 4. Spehar, D. and P. Wolf, A Case Study in Citizen Science: The Effectiveness of a Trap-Neuter-Return Program in a Chicago Neighborhood. <i>Animals</i>, 2018. 8(1): p. 14. • 5. Flockhart, D.T.T., et al., Estimates of Domestic Cats in Urban Areas Using Interdisciplinary Science: The Washington D.C. Cat Count. <i>Society & Animals</i>, 2022: p. 1-18. • 6. Cove, M.V., et al., Free-ranging domestic cats (<i>Felis catus</i>) on public lands: estimating density, activity, and diet in the Florida Keys. <i>Biological Invasions</i>, 2018. 20(2): p. 333-344. • 7. Silva-Rodriguez, E.A. and K.E. Sieving, Influence of care of domestic carnivores on their predation on vertebrates. <i>Conservation Biology</i>, 2011. 23(4): p. 808-815. • 8. Vanwormer, E., et al., <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>, source to sea: higher contribution of domestic felids to terrestrial parasite loading despite lower infection prevalence. <i>Ecohealth</i>, 2013. 10(3): p. 277-89. • 9. Natoli, E., et al., Mangement of feral domestic cats in the urban environment of Rome (Italy). <i>Preventive Veterinary Medecine</i>, 2006. 77(3-4): p. 180-185.
2027	<p>A quien pueda interesar:</p> <p>Me opongo totalmente al plan de exterminar a los gatitos de Viejo San Juan. Esto son generaciones de gatitos que llevan ahí desde mucho antes que ustedes y yo nacióramos. Gracias a ellos, VSJ no tiene casi ratas ni plagas peligrosas para la salud y en especial, le dan un aspecto "vivo" a Viejo San Juan al igual que las palomas. Estos son animalitos que forman parte del habitat de VSJ y es muy injusto que los quieran eliminar a pesar de que la agencia Save a Gato se está encargando de alimentarlos y esterilizarlos. Con todo el respeto, no entiendo qué será lo que pretenden con este proyecto y ojalá que el propósito no sea "mejorarle la vida" y satisfacer los caprichos de los Norteamericanos que se están apropiando de nuestra isla y no pagan taxes al ser cubiertos por la Ley 22. Debemos abrir los ojos y proteger lo nuestro, Boricua que me lees. Gracias por tu tiempo y espero que puedan llegar a un consenso inteligente sin que nadie tenga que perder su vida. No es necesario recurrir a la matanza injusta, todos tenemos derecho a formar parte de este ecosistema que nos pertenece a TODOS (excepto las plagas de insectos, jajaja.)</p>
2028	<p>Please please keep this organization open. Every animal deserves a chance at life. These cats deserve someone to take care of them. Please allow these people to continue doing good work for the cat community. These people are their only chance of hope.</p>
2029	<p>Cats, in addition to being beautiful creatures that bring joy to people, also control the population of small mammals. They prevent the disproportionate growth of other carnivores. They take care of the flora by not letting herbivores predominate. The soils of their hunting sites record the concentration of nutrients that keep ecosystems rich and varied. i think that after they are sterilized they can stay in old san juan, since that is their home</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2030	We never learn.....you know what caused the black death or the bubonic plague...parasites on rats...do you know and who is the best natural control..cats....this population is not abandoned nor ill. Killing them which is the ultimate goal it not only cause pain but will cause the population. Of mice and rats and other vermits to grow.. Sorry but I opposed to this cruel solution
2031	Matar gatos solo para hacer que El Morro sea "más agradable" para los turistas le quita la naturaleza al Viejo San Juan. Gatos y animales han vivido en estas calles durante siglos, quitárselos es quitar un pedazo de la historia puertorriqueña. Es como si quitaran las palomas del parque de palomas. Sería deshonesto con los turistas, que vienen a nuestra isla a aprender y conocer de qué se trata realmente nuestra historia y cultura. El viejo San Juan no es un Disneyland, perfecto y pulido. Es imperfecto pero eso es lo que lo hace especial y rico en cultura. A ningún extranjero le importa los gatos que viven por el Morro, ¿a quién no le gustan los animales? Cada vez que voy al Morro, los turistas señalan lo lindos que son, y a los niños les encantan. Son misteriosos y guardianes de la tierra. También, estos gatos eliminen a las ratas y otros roedores no deseados. Si te deshaces de estos gatos, verás ratas y ratones por todas partes, lo que realmente no es agradable para nuestros turistas.
2032	We should save cat's lives since all animals matter and should be attended accordingly. Animals cannot take care of themselves it is up to us.
2033	Hi, the proposed removal of cats in Old San Juan is inhumane and poorly planned. The cats should not be removed, they are not a threat to the residents or visitors and they are not affecting local flora or fauna. If the NPS disregards the public outrage to this proposal and desires to remove the cats it should be done in a responsible manner. The NPS should provide funding for local shelters to take in some of the cats, create adoption fairs and ENSURE that the cats go to loving homes where they will be properly cared for. Euthanizing the cats is not an option, it's inhumane, unnecessary and outright lazy.
2034	Do not permanently remove the cats!
2035	Please do not remove the cats.. save them, those cats are very well maintained by Save a gato, they are an important part of our community. My family grow loving them every time we visit El Morro and Paseo La princesa, they deserve the better..love caring and the most important..the opportunity to live !
2036	Hola, Me crié toda mi vida en Puerto Rico y hace 4 años me fuí a vivir a Washington state, ayer fui a ver por mi mismo la situación de los gatos realengos en el viejo san Juan. Yo creo que save a gato está haciendo una labor excelente al mantener saludables la población de gatos realengos y que al remover los gatos estaríamos creando otro problema al permitir que las ratas no tenga depredadores. Pienso que no se deben poner a discutir con organizaciones que lo que hacen es ayudar en vez de ayudarlos a combatir la raiz del problema que es el que las personas abandonen gatos en San Juan. Remover los gatos solo estaría creando más problemas más peligrosos y no detiene a que más personas sigan abandonando gatitos en esa área. Porfavor trabajen en conjunto con Save a Gato para evitar que sigan abandonando gatos en esa área pero apóyenlos en mantener la actual población de gatos y evitar que siga creciendo. Remover los gatos no va a solucionar el problema. Atentamente,
2037	Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos

Corr ID	Correspondence
	residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas.
2038	Por favor, no le hagan daño a los gatitos!!!!!!
2039	It is completely unnecessary to "get rid" of the cats that live in Old San Juan. Tourists love them and they do no harm to the community. The best way to help these cats and the community is to neuter all of them so that in the future there is no need for population control. The description of how they are planning on removing the cats is too vague and could mean they will be euthanized for no real reason. These cats do not deserve to be treated this way after living in that area for so long, and all of a sudden be removed from their homes. Hopefully this will not pass and the local cats can continue living among the community as they have been for over 20 years.
2040	We want the cats to stay. This just an excuse to please the people from USA and tourist. Puertorriqueños want them to stay. We love them.
2041	<p>Please let the cats stay... they've gone through great lenghts to TNR all cats. They are not a problem and not a menace to society. They actually keep the rat and lizart population controlled.</p> <p>San Juan loves the cats as much as they love the pigeon park.</p> <p>Let them be and exist.</p>
2042	These cats are Great for tourist that actually come to see them such as in Turkey. Please work with the control of their population but don't get rid of them
2043	Just leave the cats where they are - the local organizations are doing just fine without your interference.
2044	<p>Saludos</p> <p>La que suscribe es abogada, con especilidad en Derecho Gubernamental, profesora de Derecho Animal en la Universidad de Puerto Rico, Investigadora de Crueldad Animal, fundadora del Proyecto JUSTA PR (Justicia Animal PR), protectora de animales. También fui Comisionada en la Comisión Especial de los Derechos de los Animales del Colegio de Abogados y Abogadas de Puerto Rico.</p> <p>La que suscribe compareció a una de las reuniones efectuadas en el Castillo San Cristobal.</p> <p>Estoy en contra de su RECOGIDO y ELIMINACIÓN de los gatos del Paseo del Morro, Viejo San Juan. PR, por Parques Nacionales US o por cualquier entidad.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reclamo RESPETO a la VIDA y HOGAR de los gatos y someto mi férrea OPOSICIÓN a cualquier acción para recogerlos y MATARLOS.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reclamo Petición de Transparencia en el proceso ante falta de data:</p> <p>Se ha solicitado por el público información, guidelines, data y estudios que sostengan los alegados datos y hallazgos de la agencia federal. La contestación ha sido que NO estarán contestando preguntas.</p> <p>Se objeta el proceso por violentar el derecho del público a acceso a información pública.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>✓ En PR existen leyes protectoras de los gatos, ya que esas leyes protegen a los animales tengan guardián o no (los llamados de la calle). EN PR existe la Ley 154 de Bienestar y Protección de los Animales que protege a los gatos que pretenden recoger y eliminar.</p> <p>✓ Se cuestiona si la agencia federa ha tenido conversaciones con el gobierno estatal y municipal que tienen el deber de proteger a esos seres sintientes- Se objeta que NO hayan contestado.</p> <p>✓ Logros de Save A Gato - La organización expuso sus logros de reducir la población a pesar de no tener asistencia gubernamental, el que están esterilizados y vacunados, así como supervisados.</p> <p>✓ Cuestionamiento a la agencia federal- en torno a sí ha cumplido con sus responsabilidades con Save a Gato conforme al acuerdo firmado con dicha organización.</p> <p>✓ Son Gatos coloniales- Llegaron hacen siglos y son parte de nuestra HISTORIA y de nuestra CULTURA.</p> <p>✓ Turismo- Uno de los atractivos del VSJ para turistas son los gatos. Que turistas llegan buscando el lugar para ver a los gatos y que se verá afectado el TURISMO.</p> <p>Estoy en disposición de reunirme con ustedes y con Save a Gato para trabajar a desarrollar alternativas viables que no laceren la vida y hogar de los gatos y no violenten a política pública de protección de esos seres.</p> <p>Confío en que se comunicarán conmigo,</p> <p>Att</p>
2045	<p>I do not support this proposal. The cats are an essential part of Old San Juan and are of no harm to anyone. On the contrary many of visit them and appreciate them. Cats are loving and sweet. There is no reason why this plan should move forward for we, the people, want them there as they've always been. Please let us keep our cats!!</p>
2046	<p>We do not agree with the plan to get rid of the cats from Paseo del Morro, in Old San Juan. Cats are sterilized/castrated, they are fed and cared for by the Save a Gato foundation and by the citizens. Thanks to the arrival of cats, the population of rats in Old San Juan has decreased, thus avoiding the transmission of diseases.</p> <p>No estamos de acuerdo con el plan de desalojar a los gatos del Paseo del Morro, en el Viejo San Juan. Los gatos están esterilizados/castrados, son alimentados y cuidados por la fundación Save a Gato y por la ciudadanía. Gracias a la llegada de los gatos la población de las ratas en el Viejo San Juan ha disminuido, evitando así la transmisión de enfermedades.</p>
2047	<p>Por favor no hacen daño a Los Gatos. La organización, Save a Gato ha estado "spay y nueter" a todos Los Gatos aquí. La gente aman Los Gatos y ellos no molestan la gente. Los Gatos ayudan el ambiente para que no hay ratones. Por favor no hacen daño ni hagan nada para eliminar los. Por favor dejen los en paz. Los gatitos son preciosos y déjalos vivir sus vidas preciosas por favor.</p>
2048	<p>It is outrageous that this an apparent issue from people that appear to NOT be in sync with the city, its people and current status. The cats in Viejo San Juan are not a menace and they</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>for sure are a human issue because we -and I mean US and Puerto Rico peoples- do a HORRIBLE job at educating our societies to respect animals and not to abandon them and treat them kindly. All of a sudden the US-safe paradise and damned tax haven for so many people from the United States that do not respect us, our culture nor our struggles needs to be &quot;cleaned up&quot;. Cleaned up from the cats that are characteristic of the area and taken care of by actual local people by a LOCAL organization. It holds a disturbing resemblance of how the United States and more stupid peoples in our Island want to gentrify Puerto Rico to the point where the Island has less Puerto Ricans than rich people from the US.</p> <p>Leave the cats alone and better support the entities that do everything in their power to find homes for them and keep them healthy until then. Instead of imposing YOUR ideal island paradise, get some sense and support the local entities and people taking care of the space and its living individuals succeed. This only an extension of the colonialism that Island faces.</p>
2049	<p>This idea is based in ignorance, and is not supported by local communities. The fact that US parks is devoting attention to destroying community work, local culture and a positive draw for tourism is disgusting. This is something that is detrimental to Puerto Ricans, to San Juan. How about helping provide support to existing local initiatives, rather than doing harm to culture, community, life and beauty. Absolutely nauseating. The cats of San Juan are an important cultural, historical and social element of beauty.</p>
2050	<p>Please consider letting the cats stay. It seems they are cared for, and they are steralized. Eventually, there will be less and less of them. No need to intervene.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
2051	<p>My wife and I went to Puerto Rico for the first time. We enjoyed our time there but the highlight of our trip was walking through the park and spending time with the cats. Please protect and keep the cats of Old San Juan safe. It won't be the same without them there.</p>
2052	<p>Please don't eliminate the TNR cats from el Paseo del Morro trail. The organization Save a Gato has been taking care of them for over 20 years now. These cats don't cause any harm or bother anyone. They are also residents of Old San Juan. What is needed is more people like Save a Gato to continue doing TNR and helping the cats.</p>
2053	<p>Potential tourist. Please leave the cats alone. They help control pets free of charge and are part of the reason why want to visit.</p>
2054	<p>los gatos NO son realengos. están operados y vacunados. controlan las ratas y ratones. los turistas y locales los aman. son amorosos. son cultura. si intentan removerlos se les formará un papelón de gente para detener eso. los necesitamos. al removerlos llegarán más gatos, inoperados y no vacunados y el labor de save a gato se hará imposible. hay que educar. hay que esterilizar en la isla entera. los gatos no son el problema. son los seres humanos irresponsables que han causado que crezca la colonia. tan solo hoy me tiraron para abandonar una gata a quien yo le busque casa hace 6 meses. la gente es el problema. dejen los gatos tranquilos.</p>
2055	<p>How can Old San Juan be Old San Juan without our cats? They are part of our society and culture. Save a gato takes care of them and other volunteers too. They are living beings, not just &quot;aesthetics&quot;. Do you want to go back and have rodents running around restaurants? People love connecting with the nature, including our beautiful cats , of Puerto Rico whenever they visit us. Dont kill them, please.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2056	<p>Save A Gato was created in 2004 to stop the growing cat population in Old San Juan. It is the only organization that reduces the size of the cat colony around El Morro and I do not see the need for you to have a conflict with said organization from that date until now.</p> <p>Cats are pure love and man is civilized to the extent that he understands a cat.</p>
2057	<p>Please don't eliminate the TNR cats from el Paseo del Morro trail. The organization Save a Gato has been taking care of them for over 20 years now. These cats don't cause any harm or bother anyone. They are also residents of Old San Juan. What is needed is more people like Save a Gato to continue doing TNR and helping the cats. I personally adopted one of the cats rescued by Save a Gato. There's other positive ways to help this cats, not what you are proposing.</p>
2058	<p>LEAVE THE KITTENS ALONE, WE NEED THE CATS IN VIEJO SAN JUAN, THEY HELP WITH OTHER INVASIVE SPECIES LIKE RATS AND COCKROACHES. WERE GONNA LOSE ALL OF OUR STORES AND RESTAURANTS TO THESE PLAGUES PLEASE LEAVE OUR KITTIES ALONE! LET THEM LIVE</p>
2059	<p>Save A Gato was created in 2004 to stop the growing cat population in Old San Juan. It is the only organization that reduces the size of the cat colony around El Morro and I do not see the need for you to have a conflict with said organization from that date until now.</p> <p>Cats are pure love and man is civilized to the extent that he understands a cat.</p>
2060	<p>Potential tourist here. If anything bad is done to the cats, we will NOT travel ever travel there. Leave the cats alone.</p>
2061	<p>Pueden esterilizar para que no siga la reproducción pero ponerlo a dormir no es justo ni para los animales que no tuvieron la culpa de nacer ni para las personas que los han ayudado y cuidado por tanto tiempo. Por favor no acaben con ellos!</p>
2062	<p>Cats are essential for pest control. I oppose the euthanasia of Old San Juan cats.</p>
2063	<p>Estoy en DESACUERDO con la eutanasia de los gatos del Viejo San Juan!!</p>
2064	<p>2020 was a very tough year for me. Not only because the pandemic affected our lifestyle, but also because my Grandmother passed away. During my mourning, I decided to donate time to a non for profit where my Grandmother will be proud of. She loved cats, so I started to do my research of all the institutions that help cats and how I can possibly help. I was blessed to find Save a Gato on Instagram where they posted a notification asking for volunteers. I submitted my resumé, and the organization called me for an interview. They were very polite, friendly, and explained in detail the tasks to be performed. Afterwards, they offered me a position as a volunteer in Petsmart. I have been working for Save a Gato for more than 2 years now and I can testify how much love, care, engagement, and excellent work they do to protect, save and provide a forever home for many cats. This experience has changed my vision and how I see live now.</p> <p>I also had the opportunity to work closely on tasks near by the Old San Juan and I can assure that all these cats are well fed, are inoffensive, they are on good health, vaccinated and sterilized. They bring joy and stress relief to those who visit us (local Puerto Ricans and tourists) on our facilities and around Old San Juan. We have been able to control the cat's population by practicing the TNR (Trap, Nature and Return) method that consists of trapping, sterilizing, vaccinating, and returning feral cats to their colony in order to live healthy lives.</p> <p>Based on my experience and the information above, there is no reason to remove these cats from Old San Juan since they are not negatively affecting our community. I want to reaffirm</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	the excellent and impeccable work that Save a Gato has been doing for over 20 years and the positive impact to cats live, adoptive cat parents and to me. Please do not take away the opportunity to help those in need.
2065	<p>I was born in Puerto Rico and spent time throughout my years going back to visit my family but one of the highlights was going to VSJ and visiting the gatitos that have been there for ages. I know Save A Gato has dedicated 20 years or so ensuring these cats are taken care of by spay and neuter tactics and as well as collecting donations from individuals like me to support them.</p> <p>We recently adopted two kittens from PR given the high euthanization rate within the shelters and the lack of resources available to the people of PR. Save a Gato is an amazing organization ensuring that these kittens are taken care of and they are not a nuisance. They add to VSJ.</p> <p>Euthanizing them based on your recommendations because it might cause a plague is old thinking and should not be entertained. Be better Puerto Rico. We should be figuring out ways to help, not killing innocent animals because you think they are a nuisance. They actually aren't a bring such a wonderful experience to the area.</p>
2066	SAVE A GATO is one of the best organizations to help these poor defenseless animals. Cats are the best company.
2067	Cats are essential. Cats keep mice, rats and other critters in check. By removing them you're disrupting the balance and allowing disease to increase in Puerto Rico. Travel would decrease greatly. The organization Save A Gato has done tremendous help to the community as cared for these kittens and cats when their OWN OWNERS WOULDN'T! Do the right thing! As an American, I stand and support Save A Gato!
2068	My wife was born and raised in San Juan, and for me it is like a second home. We have always loved the cats of Paseo Del Morro. They are a unique and wonderful feature of Old San Juan, and we know them to be sweet and gentle creatures that are well taken care of and looked at by the local animal care organizations like Save A Gato. We would ask that no removal action be taken. It would be terribly cruel and unjust to these wonderful animals.
2069	Hello, I am a citizen of San Juan writing to petition that you treat the cats of my city humanely. They are a special part of the city, and many people appreciate their presence. While I understand that they may pose a threat to the bird population, I believe they are of use for keeping the rodent population under control. Please consider that these cats are have feelings, and of they are removed from their current home, they should be taken somewhere safe where they will be cared for, and not killed. I hope that everyone involved considers that they deserve kindness and love. They do not deserve to be treated as disposable. I sincerely ask that you do everything to ensure the protection of these beautiful animals. Thank you.
2070	<p>I have come across the news of the intended plan of removing/eliminating the gatos of Old San Juan and as a tourist who LOVED meeting this lovely and emblematic colony of felines I couldn't but leave my comment. In what follows I have summarized and addressed the main points in the Public scoping letter.</p> <p>- In 2005 the population was estimated to be 120 cats, while a camera trap survey identified at least 200 individual cats at the park in 2021.</p> <p>Leaving aside any doubts regarding the accuracy of the estimations, the significance of the apparent increase is unclear. The Israeli Ministry of Agriculture has estimated that between</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>70% and 90% of cats in a colony die before their first year of age, so depending on when these surveys were carried out, the increase could be a very poor reflection of the real size of the colony.</p> <p>Moreover, what is the ideal cat population size and why? The document states it is zero but the reasons for this radical take are left unexplained: it jumps from 'the cat population has increased' to 'ultimately eliminate their presence' literally without arguments, and my personal impression is that both locals and tourists majoritarilly disagree.</p> <p>- An exceptionally high rate of individuals within a population needs to be sterilized for TNR to be successful.</p> <p>For exactly this reason I find it surprising that the up-funding of the local non-profit, Save el Gato, so as to increase their capacity and reach, has not made it into a proposal. It would certainly be more humane and cost-effective, and far less disruptive, than the proposed action.</p> <p>- The free-ranging cats and feeding stations are not consistent with the cultural landscape.</p> <p>This is not in line with the abundance of souvenirs of all shapes and sizes starring the gatos of Old San Juan. My impression is that they have become a very fundamental part of the cultural landscape.</p> <p>- Free-ranging cats can carry a number of diseases that can be transmitted to humans and wildlife.</p> <p>This is quite untrue. Cats are among the animals that are least frequently a vector of transmission to humans even when living under the same roof. Most of the diseases they suffer they simply cannot transmit to humans.</p> <p>- Cats can become infected with parasites [...] that can be passed to humans through accidental ingestion of contaminated soil or feces. Cat urine and feces are concentrated around the feeding stations.</p> <p>This is extremely unlikely, so much so that having lived with free-ranging pet cats since a child, my family and I have never once accidentally ingested contaminated soil nor feces. I cannot imagine this occurring outdoors, and if a visitor does ingest either, contamination from cats should probably be the least of their worries (see my answer to the point above).</p> <p>Regarding the urine and feces, I can't see why they would be an issue if they are indeed concentrated precisely in the areas the cats have been assigned for their food. Moreover, cats living outdoors have a habit of covering them, whereas birds or other animals that the NPS has not (to the best of my knowledge) considered eliminating, do not.</p> <p>- Visitors that approach free-ranging cats at the park could also be bitten or scratched.</p> <p>Again, this is VERY unlikely. Cats are non confrontational and assume clear posturing cues to discourage contact when it is not welcome.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>- Cats have an enormous impact on wildlife worldwide, especially birds, contributing to species extinctions. And... - Feeding stations located within the park attract rats. Cat surveys at feeding stations have shown rats feeding alongside cats.</p> <p>These two statements are quite contradictory. If either one is true, the other can't be, except for an isolated, anecdotic case.</p> <p>As to cats having an enormous impact on wildlife, I would argue that 500 years after their introduction into the habitat, they are very much part of the local wildlife, whether or not they are fed, and if they did at some point cause the extinction of any species, it is certainly too late to remedy.</p> <p>What is an undeniable certainty is that removing them from the habitat will leave a gap that other species won't take long to fill, and the species to which cats are natural predators ARE huge vectors of transmission of illnesses to humans.</p> <p>- Many visitors complain about seeing the cats and the feeding stations and the smell associated with them.</p> <p>I believe the only appropriate comment here is that these visitors should be suggested to visit somewhere indoors, and that the opinion of such people should not bear any weight in this matter (will someone propose to eliminate boars from the mountains, since they leave their feces along walking paths and mountain roads?).</p> <p>- Cats and their waste are a concern for groups requesting permits for use of the Paseo.</p> <p>I can only imagine that their concerns are as misinformed as those on the Public scoping letter, and as easily dispelled.</p> <p>- The cats at the park do not have an easy life.</p> <p>Nor does any member of any other species living in the wild, and that has never before, to the best of my knowledge, been an acceptable argument for their elimination.</p>
2071	<p>The cats of Puerto Rico are managing the rodent population. So if you indeed get rid of the natural predators ergo the rodents would see a boost in population because their numbers would be unhindered. This would cause a worst garbage situation as well as homes and businesses would now be infested with rats and mice as well as their droppings. Is this really the ideal view that you would like Puerto Rico to have... a beautiful place with rodent infested streets and businesses?</p> <p>I would also suggest that you do your research and try to limit the misinformation that you may or may not be aware that you are spreading throughout the masses about cats in general. In regards of their cleanliness and their mentality.</p> <p>The real issue at heart is the not funding of TNR Programs as well as people abandoning pets in front of shelters.</p>
2072	<p>For as long as I can remember the cats in el paseo del Morro have always been there. They are beautiful</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>To see while walking alongside El Morro. The cats do not disrupt anyone and have no where else to go. They have made Old San Juan their home. Please leave them alone. There are so many stray animals in PR that before you start taking the ones that least disrupt anyone that you find homes for ALL of the stray animals on the island instead of just "scooping" the cats up to make old San Juan look " better" in whoever's idea this was. Those cats make viejo San Juan what they are, and they are now apart of el morro and everything that comes with it. There are bigger issues to fix in Puerto Rico other than stray cats. The TNR cats have been there for over TWENTY YEARS but now there is a problem with them? Locals have been caring for them and neutering/spaying them for years. They are not just random cats people come to visit them, and spend time with them. LEAVE PUERTO RICO AND THE ANIMALS HOW THEY ARE. THE CATS BOTHER NO ONE AND ARE NOW APART OF THE WILDLIFE IN OLD SAN JUAN. I SEE NO ISSUES WITH WILDLIFE AT BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNISSON NATIONAL PARK OR WILDLIFE ZION NATIONAL PARK OR ANY OTHER NPS. DO NOT START HERE IN VIEJO SAN JUAN. PLEASE REDIRECT YOUR ATTENTION TO BIGGER MATTERS.</p> <p>SINCERELY</p> <p>Please let them be.</p>
2073	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>The threat of "removing" the satos/cats of old San Juan is creating an uproar with the people of Puerto Rico. These cats/Satos are vetted, and cared for by Save a Gato and the surrounding community. People travel around the world but choose to visit the island for its culture and experiences which involve these cats. They have a job to do.. Removal of these animals will not fix the problems of the island that you believe are there but will in fact create many other issues that we have not seen in some time such as disease from the rat community or infestation of roaches and other bugs - these real problems once over took the main area of old San Juan and port area.</p> <p>Save a gato needs more volunteers/jobs with better funding to continue their job and vetting the cats. Continue to TNR and get the cats adopted into loving homes. Removing them forcefully will not make them disappear. People are taking advantage of the area as a dumping ground and instead of this - there should be more of park ranger/cop presence and the animal cruelty/dumping issue needs to have harsher penalties and rangers who enforce this.</p> <p>The bug issue is these cats of old San Juan promote tourism, warm experiences to the people, control the rodent issue and keep Puerto Rico cleaner. They should not and do not need to be "removed"</p> <p>a conversation about this matter should continue with the community of old San Juan and the people of Puerto Rico.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
2074	<p>Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas.
2075	I would advise caution completely removing the population. There are less feed stations and cats then reported and these animals are indeed part of the pest balance (rodents) you may find a worse situation then cats if you are to hasty. If you must cull cull carefully, but I would suggest a bolster in ensuring the population is unable to procreate and drop the numbers more slowly to avoid surprise outcomes.
2076	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I was appalled to hear about the possibility of San Juan's cat population to be exterminated. The killing of innocent animals as a means to solve a &quot;problem&quot; needs to end. This sets a terrible example and speaks very badly of what the Puerto Rico is like. There are associations that have put their blood, sweat, and tears trying to implement a TNR program with mostly private funding. This is the way to end the cat overpopulation humanely, not killing. There is not a cat problem in San Juan. There is a people problem and education needs to be a priority. People here in the US speak about the horrors and mistreatment the animals in Puerto Rico go through and the lack of action from the government in funding TNR programs and providing grants to organizations working hard on trying to spay and neuter and educate. It is shameful that lives need to end in order to fix an issue created by humans. This needs to stop!!!!</p>
2077	Dejen a los gatitos!! Que saquen a los verdaderos invasores del VSJ!!!!
2078	The idea of killing or removing the cats isn't going to solve the problem. The cats will come back every couple years. You are putting a semi short response to another problem.
2079	Please leave the kitties of Old San Juan alone I've been to San Juan a couple times and they were some of my favorite things to see there. They keep rodent infestation from happening the real problem is people abandoning pets in front of the shelters. Consider instituting an island wide TNR program.
2080	I'm a former Save a Gato volunteer and I know all the work that it takes to care for these cats. I'm totally against the plan NPS presented as it doesn't solve anything and it will mean taking the lives of innocent animals. These cats are part of the charm of the Paseo del Morro and Old San Juan and should be left there in peace. Save a Gato has done an amazing job considering all the economic and logistical challenges they have been presented with. In the past I've been a part of the conversations between NPS and Save a Gato and after questions and answers decisions have been reached without the need for all the cat's removal. Let's do that again, let's sit down and start a conversation so we can all agree on a sensible and coherent plan that will let them stay in the only home they've ever known. I trust that NPS will take the right path on this matter and consider the residents, tourists and volunteer's point of view.
2081	<p>I am disappointed to see the NPS spending time on this non-issue and strongly support the &quot;No Action&quot; option. The three-phase &quot;Proposed Action&quot; is problematic for multiple reasons.</p> <p>The cats at the San Juan National Historic site (&quot;the park&quot;) are known and loved worldwide. The organization caring for those cats, Save A Gato, is recognized as a leader in trap, neuter, return (&quot;TNR&quot;), humane education, colony management, and adoption. I first learned of Save A Gato approximately eight years ago when attempting to find Spanish-language materials relating to TNR. They were a leader in TNR at that time, and have remained so. Since my initial contact with Save A Gato, I have visited the park and the surrounding area on several occasions and learned about the organization's projects.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Now, every time I go to Puerto Rico for work, I visit the park. I have also assisted with transporting adopted cats to their homes in the Northeast.</p> <p>Based on my personal knowledge of Save A Gato and the park cats, as well as several decades volunteering with non-profit animal welfare and TNR organizations, I object to the Proposed Action as a needless waste of taxpayer funds, inhumane, and ineffective for the objectives stated.</p> <p>Save A Gato provides excellent monitoring and management of the cat colony at the park. There is no need for taxpayer funds to be spent on the Proposed Action when there is no problem. Furthermore, the Proposed Action will inevitably fail, as other commenters have explained.</p> <p>In sum, the NPS wants to use taxpayer funds to &quot;contract a professional organization or agency&quot; to &quot;remove cats from the park.&quot; This will be quite expensive - the proposed amount of the contract is not disclosed in the Free-Ranging Cat Management Plan. Currently, Save A Gato's management of the colony costs taxpayers nothing. In addition, &quot;removal&quot; is a euphemism to mask inhumane action. Even assuming the cats are humanely trapped - which is a questionable assumption - what is the contractor doing with them? Based on prior contact with such contractors operating in Florida, the animals are not humanely trapped (often left in the sun for days, or left with their head caught on the outside of a spring-loaded trap mechanism, causing gruesome injuries). The animals are then all killed using the least expensive method or are dumped in another location as the most cost-saving measure by the contractors. The Proposed Action neglects to specify any of this information, and appears to naively assume the contractors will trap and kill the cats in a humane manner. If the NPS were in fact concerned about acting humanely, it would ensure the cats are placed in a sanctuary or adoptive home. Save A Gato provides the humane approach, at no cost to taxpayers.</p> <p>The suggestion that this Proposed Action helps native wildlife is not accurate. Traps deployed by contractors are not constantly monitored and often catch other wildlife, which frequently die from exposure or injuries. The statement that &quot;cats have an enormous impact on wildlife worldwide&quot; is overly broad. The NPS appears to acknowledge that there is no evidence of the park cats adversely affecting wildlife at the park in merely speculating that &quot;[t]he impacts of free-ranging cats on wildlife are well documented and are likely occurring at the park.&quot; The notable portion of that phrase is &quot;likely occurring&quot; - NPS has provided no evidence. It is unclear how the well-fed and sterilized cats impact the wildlife more than the tourists who use the park.</p> <p>The Proposed Action will not achieve the implied goal of removing the cats from the park due to the well-documented vacuum effect, which is explained by multiple other comments. Allowing Save A Gato to maintain the population of cats at the park ensures a stable, sterilized, and monitored colony, which will eventually decrease in number due to both sterilization and adoption efforts.</p> <p>The Management Plan asserts that TNR is &quot;Not Working at the Park&quot; because &quot;TNR only works in a closed system&quot;. However, the site of the park within Old San Juan is about as close to a closed system as possible. And TNR is working. Indeed, even in a non-closed system, such as the Botanic Gardens in the middle of Buenos Aires,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Argentina - not a closed system - TNR plus adoption was successful in dramatically reducing the cat population. The Management Plan acknowledges that new cats will join the park from other populations. If this is the case, it will guarantee the contractor remove and kill method is destined to fail: new (unaltered, unvaccinated) cats will replace the removed colony. Having an organization like Save A Gato monitor the colony ensures that any new cat will be noticed and sterilized/vaccinated and adopted to a home if possible. In addition, the Management Plan attributes new cats to "travel among populations." In general, the new cats are from abandoned pets or animals trapped and dumped from another location - i.e., there is a significant human factor. Again, Save A Gato can monitor for any new arrivals. They are also active in providing humane education to the surrounding urban area and connecting residents with veterinary providers to help ensure pets stay in their homes. The Management Plan noted that cats may be abandoned by people who assume they are "safe." Irresponsible human actions will not stop because the NPS spends taxpayer money to trap and kill the park cats. If the NPS is concerned about cats being abandoned in the park, the money is better spent on educational activities or providing resources to the surrounding area.</p> <p>The Management Plan expresses concern about the visitor experience being ruined by the cats. However, news coverage of the NPS spending money on a contractor to kill cats - or the sight of cats in traps, being removed to be killed - will not create positive publicity or goodwill with park visitors. As to my personal experience, even when I am working in other areas of San Juan or even central PR, I choose to stay at locations near the park because I know I will not feel sad about seeing sick, hungry cats in the street. I always have a pleasant experience when staying near the park because the cats are cared for and eartipped. Save A Gato's positive impact is felt not just at the park, but throughout Old San Juan.</p> <p>I hope the NPS will reject the Proposed Action and take the humane and fiscally responsible path. Save A Gato has done wonderful work with the park cats, and their stewardship should be recognized and praised.</p>
2082	<p>Please let the cats stay in San Juan. They are vital to tourism and this organization(saveagato) is making a difference in the cat community. Let them roam and be free as they should be on this earth</p>
2083	<p>Please please do not kill them. With so much suffering, hate and despair in the world these animals bring joy to anyone that would adopt them. They have been fixed, vaccinated and there are plenty of organizations working to place them with a responsible and loving family. We adopted two and we totally adore them. They made it to Massachusetts through a non profit organization. Killing them would give a bad impression about our culture. They are not harming anyone. They become family for those who probably don't have much.</p>
2084	<p>Por favor, hagan Trap-Neuter-Release. Es la mejor solución para todos, humanos y felinos. La atención que han recibido estos gatos es prueba de lo posible que sería recaudar fondos para tal iniciativa. Sean creativos con sus soluciones para así llegar a una para el bien general. No se decidan por lo más sencillo y lo más económico, si no por lo más correcto. Soy de Guaynabo escribiendo desde Nueva York. ¡Gracias por su tiempo!</p> <p>Please, carry out a TNR program. It is the best solution for both the people and cats involved. The attention these felines have garnered is proof of how possible it would be to recover funds to sponsor such a program. Please be creative with the solution, so that we may arrive at one for the greater, common good. Do not make decisions based on what is easiest and</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	most affordable, but what is most correct. I am from Puerto Rico, living in New York, with plans to return to the island soon. Thank you for your time!
2085	We want the Old San Juan cats safe, that's their home and a beautiful attraction for puertorricans, residents who loves them and tourists. Please keep them, help Save a Gato save their precious lives and take good care of them.
2086	Don't kill the cats in San Juan
2087	Removing cats from Paseo del Morro can have a lot of unintended consequences in the long term. The area is a natural habitat of cats and these animals control the population of rodents, and other small critters that can spread diseases we don't want in our society. Covid 19 started because animals were removed from their natural habitats. By removing cats, we will be changing the ecosystem of Paseo del Morro forever. Starting an island wide TNR program would be a better solution considering these long term consequences.
2088	<p>I ask that you strongly reconsider the proposal to remove the cat population living in and around the el Paseo del Morro Trail. These cats I and so many, many others refer to affectionately as The Cats of OSJ.</p> <p>I first visited Old San Juan 13 years ago. The trip started as a recovery vacation after a stressful period of my life. On the second day I discovered the cats and spent the rest of my trip visiting them and spending time with them in each of their own little habitats. The more time I spent with them and the people who cared for them, the more I began to reconnect with a life I had considered ending. After my week was up, I returned home, whole and happy to have found such a loving, caring community of people who truly care for these cats and the cats themselves It renewed my faith in humanity.</p> <p>I again ask you to please reconsider removing this proposal and not the cats who have done nothing but live their lives and bring some joy to the people who live in and visit Old San Juan.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
2089	There are humane solutions for the cats, like those proposed by the Save a Gato group. It is important to give an opportunity of life for these creatures before killing them. In addition: Is killing the cats a good example for our young people and children? Think about it. I would appreciate that you reconsider this matter and try to provide the required funds for Save a Gato and other organizations that are trying to actually solve the problem and educate the population. Thank you
2090	Try to institute an island wide TNR program! Cats are essential because they protect the city from rodent infestations so removing the predators would allow the rodents to thrive and cause more problems! Also humans abandoning pets in front of the shelter is the real problem and that needs to get looked into. Also supporting organizations such as Save A Gato do some much work to help the cats which in return helps communities within Puerto Rico. I stand and support Save A Gato and all the work they do!
2091	Buenas Noches, en vez de sacar Los Gatos, deberian de ayudar a Save a Gato, organizacion sin fines de Lucro. Lo que puede leer en su stand, la mitad es mentira, si USA se pasa enviado dinero y lo mal gastan en obras que no se ven por ejemplo: las carreteras del pais son un desastre. Muy Bien podriamos ayudar a conservar los Gatos que no hacen dano a nadie y a la vez no destruyen NINGUN monumento(que por cierto contruyeron los espanoles),ademas son parte de nosotros Gracias
2092	I strongly approve the removal of cats from all national parks.
2093	<p>Good Evening ;</p> <p>As a Puertorrican it is important to defend people that makes my Island a better place. My</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>letter is to defend the Save a Gato organization that for many years has provided a solution to the cats of Viejo San Juan. By doing the TNR program, has control de Cat population making both cats and people mingle together in harmony.</p> <p>Please Reconsider and make solutions that give peace to everyone including The cats and by that is to let the cats weee they belong (Viejo San Juan)</p> <p>Sincerely</p>
2094	<p>To all parties involved at the National Park service,</p> <p>Several years ago I traveled to Puerto Rico and fell in love with the island, its people, flora and fauna and the old historic center . I loved seeing all the beautiful cats that were be cared for by individuals and rescue groups. As a rescuer myself helping run a non profit in our local community in California, I appreciated the hard work involved in caring for these felines that were either abandoned, forgotten or neglected and that kind people take it upon themselves to help them by getting them fixed to reduce further population , getting them healthy with vaccines and other important vet care...all at their own costs and time commitments thus ensuring a viable healthy future for these wonderful animals. I appreciate the hard work and dedication that they have provided for many years. Please continue to support these efforts and ensure the cats have a community home that demonstrates coexistence with humans and all sentient beings that want to thrive and live in this place we call home, our amazing earth. Thank you and look forward to seeing all creatures great and small continue to Bring much happiness and joy to our daily lives.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
2095	<p>Please don't eliminate the cats. They are living animals with a heartbeat. The TNR process works and the cats are cared for. Why after 20 years does this need to be changed? The cats only know one place where they've lived and eaten all these years. Eventually the TNR process will take care of itself but until then, please, let the wonderful people care for these amazing cats. These cats help with the bug and rodent population. They are helpful. This is nature's course.</p>
2096	<p>Cats deserve a home to be loved to be safe and we need to limit the strays on the road if we can. too many cat lives and animals have been lost in the streets.</p>
2097	<p>The community is aware of the challenges surrounding the cats in OSJ and instead of establishing connections directly with those that are dealing with the situation, once again, the government has decided to blindside community organizations and their efforts. The lack of transparency in this proposal is inconceivable. And so is the inability of state officials to answer basic questions. National Park Services has a responsibility to the OSJ community and we will continue to raise our voices for our cats in OSJ.</p>
2098	<p>Originally these cats were brought years ago to San Juan to control the rat , mice and other pest, that a city full with old buildings, abandoned infrastructure, and being close to the water brings. Most if not all of these cats are sterilized , to control population. The removal of these cats will only bring back uncontrolled and undesired pests. The citizens of this city do not want them removed and even feed them so they stay and perform their job keeping pests under control. I believe in order to make a decision like this, we have to go back in history, and understand why they were brought to San Juan the first place.</p>
2099	<p>I WISHED THERE WAS NO "SITUATION" IN OLD SAN JUAN WITH ALL THE CATS. BUT WHEN WE THINK THERE IS A PROBLEM WE NEED TO THINK LONG TERM AND REMOVING THEM IS NOT THE SOLUTION. INSTEAD THERE</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	SHOULD BE CAMPAIGNS TO EDUCATE, STERILIZE AND HELP THESE ANIMALS. YOU AS A FEDERAL ORGANIZATION CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. WE ALL HAVE QUESTIONS LIKE, WHAT DOES IT MEANS TO REMOVED Them? WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THEM? YOU HAVE THE POWER AND RESOURCES TO HELP THE SITUATION WITH EDUCATION. PLEASE DO NOT TURN THIS SITUATION INTO SOMETHING WORSE AS IT IS. IF YOU DECIDE TO "REMOVE" THEM, THERE WILL BE MORE UNEDUCATED PEOPLE LEAVING THEM ANYWAYS, SO THE SITUATION WILL NEVER END. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE THAT ARE TRYING TO MAKE THINGS BETTER. I AM SURE THERE WILL BE A BLESSING FOR THEM IF THE SITUATION GETS HUMANELY CONTROL BY PEOPLE UNDERSTANDING WHATS GOING ON AND HAVING MORE RESOURCES TO TAKING CARE OF THEM INSTEAD OF LEAVING THEM BEHIND SO THEIR RESOURCES GET USED ON MANY OTHER SITUATIONS. PLEASE BE KIND TO THIS ANIMALS. WE TRUST SO MUCH IN YOU AND YOUR POWER.
2100	I've visited Old San Juan several times and I love seeing the cats along the Paseo. Save a Gato is an organization that does a wonderful job of taking care of these animals and they are a tourist attraction in their own right. Plenty of "crazy cat people" love to spend their money going to places where they see and pet cute cats. Save a Gato keeps the population under control with TNR and the cats help keep the rodent population in check.
2101	The cats in the area don't produce any harm. They have been there for a long time and I remember times visiting "Viejo San Juan" to get to know the cats. Rats where also a big problem in Old San Juan, since cats where involved they have been less cases of rats in the area. The Palomas don't have a problem with it, "El parque de las palomas" is still as alive as ever. The locals take care of the cats and have good care. Please don't make this desicion
2102	DO NOT CLOSE THIS BRINGS YOU TOURISM AS WELL AS RESPECT FOR THE CATS
2103	Save GATO PR please save the cats they are wonderful cats help them I donated!!
2104	Please save and leave these animals, they are harmless and deserve a life. They are well taken care of and are not impacting anyone in a negative way, they are full of love. Getting rid of any animal is animal cruelty, no one deserves that, it's inhumane. These cats are the main reason why I would travel to your area as a visitor. I know residents that take care of these amazing cats and they are part of the community, there's gotta be a way to keep and cultivate unread of destroying lives of innocent animals.
2105	Please do not remove the cats from Paseo Del Morro, Old San Juan. The Save A Gato charity has done a wonderful job caring for the cats, spaying and neutering them. Research shows that TNR is the most effective way to reduce feral cat populations. These community cats bring joy to locals and tourists and are just trying to live their lives. Please let them be.
2106	Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas. Por favor, no sigamos aumentando el abuso, existen otras vías.
2107	I have my son who's my cat of course, and I saved him. Not every cat gets to be saved . What this organization is doing is amazing!!! We need more kindness in this world . I pray this organization continues. Especially the island of Puerto Rican and me being Puerto Rican, our

Corr ID	Correspondence
	culture is all about love & kindness so I wouldn't think we as a whole would ever want to damage or take away something like this from the island .
2108	Please consider allowing the kitties of San Juan to continue to live peacefully in the community. They are a main reason I've come back to Puerto Rico multiple times. They are a part of the community and are cared for so lovingly! Taking them out of their natural habitat would be cruel.
2109	Desde que visito el Viejo San Juan, los gatos han formado parte por años y ninguna inquietud nos ha creado (mi familia y pareja). Siempre ha sido una de las razones por la que vamos a despejar la mente. Los gatos no impiden a que uno goce y visite los castillos ni el paseo de la princesa, al contrario, complementa el recorrido haciéndolo mas llevadero. Incluso, esos gatos son cuidados por la organización Save a Gato y la comunidad.
2110	<p>I am a volunteer of Save a Gato since 2019. I am so proud to be part of this organization where our main goal is to control the over population of Old San Juan Cats, through TNR program.</p> <p>If NPS sees them as an invasive specie, &quot;feral&quot; cats along Paseo Del Morro, disturbing the tourists, they should see how actually the tourists are delighted to encounter these cats along Paseo. If the problem is how ugly the feeding stations look, we can fix that by designing one model that blends more to the environment. If the problem is the smell of urine or feces, then we can improve cleaning those areas. I don't see any of these problems not having a solution.</p> <p>Now if you eliminate these cats, then we will have bigger problems. In this vaccum space created, other cats will appear anyway.</p> <p>Please leave these cats where they have always belonged for centuries. They are our community cats. They are the souls of our city.</p>
2111	<p>&quot;How a society treats its most vulnerable is always the measure of its humanity.&quot;</p> <p>Statement by Ambassador Matthew Rycroft of the UK Mission to the UN at the Security Council Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict</p> <p>&quot;La forma en que una sociedad trata a sus más vulnerables es siempre la medida de su humanidad&quot;.</p> <p>Declaración del Embajador Matthew Rycroft de la Misión del Reino Unido ante la ONU en el Debate Abierto del Consejo de Seguridad sobre los Niños y los Conflictos Armados</p>
2112	<p>I support the proposed action of removing the cats, removing the feeding stations, and monitoring. I do not agree with the Save a Gato TNR program that has allowed the cat population to grow from 120 cats to 200 cats. Furthermore, I do not agree with feeding the cats which does not stop the cats from killing native wildlife, spreading disease, or defecating at the feeding site.</p> <p>In addition, feeding the cats encourages breeding because the cats will find mates easier. The TNR program cannot keep up with the breeding cats because cats will birth multiple kittens throughout the year. Too much time will be spent trying to catch and sterilize the mother cat while the kittens themselves will be able to reproduce at four months of age, which leads to even more kittens.</p> <p>I support the proposed action of removing the cats.</p>
2113	Please protect the kitties and accept the help from cat rescues

Corr ID	Correspondence
2114	<p>I have visited Puerto Rico several times and one of my favorite things is always the cats. I have donated to Sav-A-Gato multiple times. They truly care for the well being of some of the islands most iconic residents.</p> <p>TNR works- if anything these programs need more support. Trying to eliminate the program (and the cats) is inhumane. Please rethink your position. Thank you.</p>
2115	<p>I will talk in favor of saving the cats from paseo del Morro. This cat collonies have been in old san juan far longer than the paseo, therefore, you people (NPS) disrupted their natural habitat. The residents, long before the paseos contruction, have been caring for this kind creatures and now Save a Gato has taking the lead role.</p> <p>Giving them shelter, food, water, and health services. By saying shelter i mean that young cats are captures and held on casita until the are ready for adoption. Health services, EVERY VISIBLE SICK CAT IS TAKEN TO THE VET AND IS GIVEN THE PROPER MEDICATION FOR THEIR WELLBEING.</p> <p>The original Paseo cat population has decreased a lot because of TNR and Adoption. If the population has increased is because of the lack of vigilance in the area. People outside of san juan have been abandoning cats while pregnant, sick... I have PERSONALLY found various kittens abandoned un the hill in station 2.</p> <p>Captured cats are spayed and vaccinated, which means, that the accusation of rabies is false.</p> <p>It is DOCUMENTED that CATS ARE NATURAL HUNTERS so they control the rat populations that has always infested SJ.</p> <p>Also, turist love the cats. They always ask about them, they bring them treats and try to pet them.</p> <p>#thecatsstay</p>
2116	<p>I believe the government of Puerto Rico has to make changes on how we are responsible as pet owners. We have a huge issue in overpopulation of animals in our streets, not just cats. If there were actual consequences for people and how they treat and manage their pets I feel there would be less of them in the streets. More education and awareness on sterilization would be beneficial to the island. Personally feel that VSJ Cats shouldn't go anywhere, the government should actually try to take care of them. This is the sad result of bad management. I have 3 cats and all are neutered and so are my dogs. I take responsibility for my pets, so should the rest of the population in this island. There are many misinformed and prejudiced people against sterilization.</p> <p>There should be other ways in how to tackle this situation with the cats, not just put them to sleep. Because there will be more cats eventually, if no action is taken on the responsibility of the owners. The massive sterilization events that happen once in a while helps a lot of people that do care and unfortunately don't have the enough money to do so.</p> <p>Please take in consideration what plans you have in mind for these defenseless and hopeless animals. It is not their fault they are in the streets, someone was irresponsible.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2117	<p>The cats of San Juan are very important to the story of historic San Juan, to the local community and to the tourists that visit the beautiful city. I've personally visited the cat colony on more than one occasion. It's an amazing colony to see living there surrounded by all of that beauty. I look forward to coming back year after year. It would be a travesty if the cat colony was removed or relocated from their place on the island. I've visited places like Key West where the roosters and chickens roam Wild in the community. They are respected, cared for and loved. I respect the NPS and am confident that decisions will be made to protect and embitter the cat colonies of San Juan after reading and considering the comments, emails, letters and phone calls that have been made on this topic by concerned supporters of the colonies and the city of San Juan.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p>
2118	<p>La presencia de animales realengos en PR es una situación preocupante y alarmante. A pesar de la existencia de leyes (154) y oficinas (OECA) dirigidas a la prevención y el manejo de los animales realengos, la realidad es que su falta de implementación, la pobre educación de las personas que se supone las haga valer y sobre todo, la inacción del Estado agravan la problemática. Si no fuera por las organizaciones de bienestar animal, las personas voluntarias y las personas rescatistas, el impacto sería aún mayor.</p> <p>Save a Gato se ha destacado por más de 20 años sirviéndole a la comunidad del viejo SJ al proveer servicios que redundan en la reducción de gatos y velando por su bienestar. Su labor es posible gracias a donaciones y voluntariado. El trabajo incansable de su equipo de voluntarios/as es reconocido y agradecido, no solo a nivel local, también a nivel internacional. La estrategia de atrapar, esterilizar y soltar es una probada científicamente. Los gatos no representan peligro para la comunidad ni para los y las turistas. Al contrario, se han convertido en parte de la idiosincrasia del viejo SJ y atraen la atención y el respeto de las personas que nos visitan del exterior.</p> <p>Por lo antes expuesto, apoyo la labor de Save a Gato y no estoy de acuerdo con el "plan" propuesto por el Servicio Nacional de Parques del Departamento del Interior de EE. UU. El plan es ambiguo y no es transparente ya que en el mismo no se explica qué harán con los gatos removidos. Este asunto no se resolverá desde una alternativa o desde un solo sector. Para atajar la situación de gatos realengos en SJ es necesario diseñar planes de trabajo concertados entre todas las partes involucradas (Comunidad, municipio, Parques Nacionales y Save a Gato, entre otros). Esfuerzos que crean división o animosidad no resultarán en respuestas efectivas. Se deben consolidar esfuerzos existentes para aumentar recursos humanos y materiales. También integrar a la academia para que, a través de investigaciones y programas de práctica, se realicen estudios de necesidades, redacción de propuestas y planes de trabajo que propendan en la implantación de programas educativos y de recaudación de fondos.</p>
2119	<p>Hello dear NPS,</p> <p>I love the outdoors and our nations parks. I want to see them succeed and have improvements as needed. Removing the cats of the Old San Juan/El Morro area is not a good idea. The cats have been taken care of for over 20 years and play a vital role in not only the environment, but the community as well. They help control the pest population and bring tourists, such as myself to the island. The cats are maintained and cared for by an amazing non-profit volunteer group. That volunteer group, not only helps control the cat population, but also adopts out cats that would do well in a home.</p> <p>Please leave the cats. Please leave them alone.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Let them stay, live & prosper.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
2120	<p>I support NO action on this plan. The proposed phases would be inhumane and costly, and would not solve the stated "problem" in the long term, anyway.</p> <p>The U.S. Dept of the Interior/NPS haven't presented detailed data, nor sources to what is outlined in the public scoping letter. What has lead to this plan? What percent of site visitors feel it was a poor experience due to the animals? What percent of site visitors had serious health concerns due to the animals? And how many have had no issue at all, and rather the reason for their visit, or "cherry on top," was seeing the animals around the area? In my recent visits to San Juan, the travelers and residents I encountered all had positive feedback on the presence of the site.</p> <p>Is San Juan's tourism economy down? If so, are the animals having the biggest effect on the matter? Would tourism skyrocket without them? That is highly unlikely (and I think the opposite would occur, unfortunately).</p> <p>If every animal is removed from the whole island as part of this plan, there's a possibility it is somewhat effective (which, in turn, resident happiness & livelihood also decreases, resulting in the human population to move away, the economy to further suffer, and a good chance for animals to be "illegally" smuggled in).</p> <p>Humans cannot predict nature, and we certainly need to respect it. This is, well, the "circle of life." Removing some cats for a short period of time to appease few opinions isn't viable. There will always be people who abandon a previously-owned pet, and drop them off in the surrounding area. Right now it's a cat, so we decide to remove the cats; in a few years, more dogs are seen in the area...and the cycle continues. What about the birds? These are all the obvious "big" animals -- what about the invasive insects and plants (the ones not killed off by pesticides & concrete)? Just because we can't see them large in stature doesn't mean they don't have an affect on the area, too. Another example is rodents, who 'reside' in many public places with potential health & safety concerns; and the reality is, even the homeless human population would fall into that category.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - what about the garbage/litter that decreases the "cultural landscape?" - what about other animal (including human) feces/urine that affects the landscape? <p>Again, the proposed elimination plan to "improve site experience" is unrealistic & short-sighted, among all of the other things to potentially focus our energy on, both locally & federally (and to reiterate, inhumane and costly).</p> <p>How closely has NPS worked with Save a Gato, to understand all of their strategic efforts and dedication to managing the animals, for both their well-being and humans'? Given the extreme volatility of the world, and specifically the U.S. economy + natural disasters + politics + a pandemic in the past twenty years, the non-profit organization has continued to operate successfully under challenging conditions. They do so with volunteers and donations, keeping both the cats' and local establishments' best interests in mind. As someone who has visited 20+ countries, with historic ruins & UNESCO world heritage sites ALWAYS at the top of my list, finally seeing San Juan's rich and beautiful history would not have been the</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>same without the animals -- they ARE part of the history.</p> <p>I look forward to returning to San Juan to experience the historic areas, see the beautiful people and hear their stories passed down from generations, and included in all of those are the unique cat colonies. I fully-support a healthy and eventual sterile population and I fully-support Save a Gato in their continued efforts to manage the area.</p> <p>The idea for NPS to "monitor the effectiveness & long-term success" is vague, in a vacuum, and lacks accountability. Why isn't there a logical option now to spend the plan's money & devote more resources to build upon the work already done by Save a Gato? Has funding been allocated to support their expertise in the past? A concerted, collaborative effort here could be used as framework for other situations, with other species and/or as general tactics at other parks.</p> <p>Simply "removing" character and unique history of an area like this seems similar to tearing down the small castle to make the big one shine brighter. Visitors will ask what happened to the small castle. They will like the big castle. But the two castles TOGETHER complete the story, and the historic importance. The efforts should be focused on preserving history, not attempting to keep the 21st-century concrete sidewalks clean from animal droppings while disregarding litter from humans and the fact that NPS 'warns' visitors to not approach bison at Yellowstone--and they don't listen--yet NPS wants to remove cats in San Juan because visitors "take a risk" to approach a cat and might be scratched. I hope my voting record over the past 20 years has elected officials to appoint committee members who step back, and take a more logical approach to this. I will continue my 100% support for Save a Gato, and continue to question any additional actions by the U.S. Department of Interior/NPS.</p>
2121	<p>I love visiting Puerto Rico and the highlights of so many of my visits have been walks with the cats. I make special trips just to see the cats. Never have I been harmed or felt in danger - quite the opposite. The cats are home in this area and causing no harm. Removing the cats would cause harm not only to the cats but also the many tourists who admire and seek the cats of this area.</p>
2122	<p>I lived in Puerto Rico for 4 years (2016-2020). My best memories were spending time in Viejo San Juan and visiting the cats of Save a Gato. The TNR program is very important to reduce the amount of feral cats in Puerto Rico. Without it, more cats would have kittens and the population would get out of control. The cats in the TNR program are healthy and sterilized. They live a great life and I've witnessed so many people brought to happiness when visiting these cats. These cats are not "feral" (unsocialized, afraid and hostile toward people). Most are very sociable and love their human visitors. These cats are not a nuisance to the public. Removing them from this area will only make the overpopulation of stray and feral cats and worse.</p>
2123	<p>As someone who has family in San Juan and visits often, this is horrible to see that this is up for any debate. The cats in the streets of Old San Juan are doing no harm. If anything, they are helping to keep mice off the streets. Please do not euthanize these cats!</p>
2124	<p>Porfavor protejan a los gatos del Viejo San Juan bajo la protección de Save a Gato! Son animales amables como nosotros, y los hogares y la comida que reciben en estas areas es necesaria para sostenerse. Ellos no tienen voces pero nosotros sí, así que tenemos la responsabilidad de representar esta causa y defenderlos contra la campaña de eutanizarlos.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2125	I'm completely against of this genocide. Respect and support for our cats. Fuck your gentrification.
2126	Los gatos son parte de San Juan!
2127	<p>Hello NPS!</p> <p>First of all I want to thank you for the time and dedication you put into preserving our beautiful parks and monuments. Many families along with myself take advantage of everything the US has to offer and in the process, we make countless memories day in and day out. With that being said, whenever I visited the beautiful island of Puerto Rico - I discovered the "cat park" in El Paseo del Morro and words cannot describe how happy that place made me feel. For many years now, locals have been taking care of and adopting these cats so that they are able to find a better home. I firmly believe that this space tells the story of Puerto Rico, the US and humanity in general - because in a day where we are all live life faster and more disconnected from one another, the preservation of these animals show the best of humanity and it's selfless love. There is nothing more than me and many other people around the globe would love to see than to keep this local spot of happiness going and with the blessing of the NPS, I know for a fact that this dream can become a reality.</p> <p>Thank you for your time in reading this and have a wonderful Thanksgiving week!</p>
2128	Estoy en desacuerdo con esto. Me voy en contra de este proyecto ya que Los Gatos no hacen daño a nadie. Son animales inocentes.
2129	In Old San Juan, there's these stray cats that roam around the town. They've been there for quite a while and are cared for by a local organization called "Save a Gato". They neuter them in order to prevent more cats from living on the street. They also feed them and help locals adopt them. There's been an initiative to euthanize them. We cannot let that happen. They help control the rat population and prevent from diseases being spread and also conserve the ecology. Please help to protect these cats. They're vital to their environment.
2130	Please save a beautiful spot for beautiful souls
2131	Please don't kill the cats
2132	The cat colony of El Morro is a well maintained and quintessential staple of tourism and life in Viejo San Juan. The cats are some of the oldest residents of the city and the NPS removing them is unjust and uncalled for. The cats are kept in good health, their population is controlled and they are an asset to the historic site in Viejo San Juan. Save a Gato is a super proactive organization who manage the cat colony very well. NPS should leave the cat colony in the hands of Save a Gato and let them continue to live in peace. The cat colony of El Morro is an institution and should not be removed.
2133	<p>To who sees this—</p> <p>Though I live in the continental US, I have a lot of friends from Puerto Rico and all of them are out crying into save these cats. My husband and I both have plans to travel to PR and we're so excited to come and see the cats, but the news that they may be removed from the land is deeply disheartening.</p> <p>If these animals are to be removed from their habitat, we beg that it is done humanely, without harm to the animals. The animals have done nothing but exist, and I pray they aren't punished because some people believe they are a "pest".</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Many blessings to you.
2134	<p>Estoy en contra la remoción, o mejor dicho el asesinato de los gatos del Viejo San Juan. Los gatos son una parte crucial de la identidad del Viejo San Juan, literalmente hay esculturas dedicadas a ellos al rededor de la ciudad. No hay ninguna necesidad para la exterminación. ¿Qué tal si en ves de dedicar los fondos para ponerlos a dormir se les redirige a Save A Gato? Claro, que les encanta la morbosidad. Porque aún no captan que para que una comunidad se construya hace falta humanidad y un sentido de pertencia. Lo fácil es el desplazo y la remoción porque negociar es difícil. Llegar a compromisos es difícil. Matar y desaparecer es fácil.</p>
2135	<p>Hello! Hope everyone is doing well!</p> <p>I love going to Old San Juan. Love to reconnect its history and a wonderful place to go for walks, have a nice photoshooting, picnics, family activities and dating. But what I love most of Old San Juan, it's the cats that are staying there.</p> <p>If we go back to the Middle Ages, cats were exterminated due to the beliefs that they were part of the witches and because of that it is what caused the Black/Bubonic Plague due to the rats. To avoid this to happen in one of the most visited places of this beautiful island is let the cats stay. These cats are social, doesn't cause any trouble. In fact, they are most beloved to the tourists since they are very caring, social.</p> <p>The cats in OSJ are spayed and nutered, fed and watered by locals and Non-Profit Organizations who really care about these precious animals, they do not cause any harm.</p> <p>Please understand the reason. We love having our precious felines staying at OSJ. They are preventing those times of the Middle Ages in the Contemporary Era, but with pigeons and rats running around The Walled City of Puerto Rico</p> <p>I appreciate your consideration of keeping these precious cats stay in our beautiful city.</p> <p>Thank you, blessings!</p>
2136	The cats in Old San Juan have become a staple that bring locals and tourists much joy. Old San Juan will become sad without them.
2137	<p>I am planning a visit to Puerto Rico for the first time in February. When I was researching and planning what to do, the activity I was most excited about was seeing the cats at Paseo del Morro. It reminded me of visiting Rome, where cats lounged at a cat sanctuary among ancient ruins (Largo Argentina). There's something so magical about historic sites being preserved while also being ecosystems for living creatures! Especially since cats do a lot less damage than humans. I was so sad to hear that the cats might get cleared from the site, especially after researching all the work done by local organizations like Save a Gato to help the kitties who choose to make this site their home. I hope that you can work with these organizations to find a solution that keeps the cats healthy and safe and available for me to admire when I visit in February!! :)</p>
2138	<p>One of the reasons I love to go and walk in OSJ is taking the trail next to El Morro. One of the parts I enjoy the most is looking and the cats. It makes me happy to see that we can live in harmony with this inspiring creatures. In many countries cats are sacred and are protected against any harm humans can provoke. The cats are there enjoying their habitat without doing</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	any harms and it's been like that for a long time. I don't understand the sudden decision of removing them. At the end, we know what "removing" means and that is not the way to go. I am available to participate and cooperate to help get cats nurtured but without removing them from their habitat. They are not doing any harm. Please reconsider the proposed action plan.
2139	How are you going to know which cat is homeless and those cat's that belong to Old San Juan Residents that let the cats go out and come back to their homes? How are you going to control the situation, killing them? How is that going to benefit El Morro? What's the difference? Is El Morro going to fall because of the weight of the cats? Do the cats have rabies? Are they dangerous? Are the rats going to disappear once the cats are killed? How many tourists complain about the cats or is it only and just the park service? Are you going to kill all new cats that appear near El Morro for ever? How will you pay for that, with tax payers money, of those who want the cats there? Nothing in this idea makes sense because there are no valid reasons to just catch and kill the cats, this is just another random act to waste tax payer's money, that won't benefit anyone but will hurt everyone.
2140	<p>1. Los turistas les gusta pasear por donde están Los Gatos y nunca los he visto quejarse.</p> <p>2. Ayuda con el control de ratas, prefiero que San Juan este lleno de gatos que de ratas.</p> <p>3. Son seres vivos que merecen vivir y ahí toda una organización que los cuida y ayuda.</p>
2141	<p>Cats are part of the experience of walking around old San Juan and the area behind EL MORRO and the School for the Arts. They bring a smile to the faces of tourists and locals that stroll around this area as a form of exercise and recreation. Recently I was there with a group of students and one of the students smiled happily when she was able to pet one of the cats.</p> <p>Save a Cat controls the cat population by spaying the cats. This organization also feeds the animals and cares for them. Thanks to them, these cats are okay.</p> <p>I fully and completely support the presence of the cats in this area and I am against any proposal to capturing them and "getting rid of" or "removing" them. They've been there for many years and are part of the experience and adventure of visiting EL MORRO and its surroundings.</p>
2142	Dejen a esos gatos tranquilos en el Viejo San Juan. Todos están muy bien cuidados por la organización Save a Gato, organización "sin fines de lucro" los cuales por años se han mantenido esterilizando, vacunando y cuidando por que "donde hay mucho gato, no hay ratones ni ratas. Han estado haciendo el trabajo que el gobierno no hace, ni va a hacer si se trata de bregar con los derechos y vida de los animales. Por eso es que se puede vivir tranquilo, sin pensar en alguna enfermedad que se le pueda pegar y dañar a uno paseando por las calles del Viejo San Juan, por que no hay ratas corriendo por ningun lado. Por que no aprendemos de una vez y por todas a estar orgullosos de lo que tenemos como pueblos, de lo que nos hace diferente a los demás, por ejemplo en Grecia, hay gatos por todas partes. Hasta en las postales para enviarle a nuestras personas amadas dejandoles saber donde estamos. Estoy segura que a ningún griego se le ha ocurrido la descabellada idea de sacar a los gatos de sus pueblos para llevárselos y eliminarlos. Los gatos del Viejo San Juan están ahí ¡PARA QUEDARSE!. Si quieren sacar algún animal de la isla, aprovechen los santuarios que están dispuestos a llevarse a todos los animales que están siendo torturados y maltratados en lo que nunca debió ser el zoológico de Mayaguez, y denle la satisfacción de

Corr ID	Correspondence
	respirar aire fresco, aire de libertad por los años que le quedan de vida y como su derecho deben disfrutar.
2143	Esterilización para contener la propagación de los gatitos. No es justo que por la irresponsabilidad del ser humano, los animales tengan que pagar.
2144	<p>De acuerdo con la Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (UICN), los gatos domésticos (<i>Felis catus</i>) se encuentran en la lista de las "100 Especies Exóticas Invasoras más Dañinas del Mundo". Su domesticación surge en Medio Oriente y desde entonces, por actividad humana, han logrado esparcirse por todos los continentes con excepción de la Antártica. En las Antillas, se cree que su llegada se encuentra ligada con el arribo de los españoles. Como toda especie exótica que llega a un nuevo territorio, para convertirse en invasora tienen que atravesar la etapa de establecimiento y/o naturalización donde el organismo crea poblaciones autosostenibles sin necesidad de nuevas introducciones. Luego de esto la especie es considerada como invasora cuando logra expandirse considerablemente, teniendo impactos negativos en la salud humana, ecosistemas, economía, etc.</p> <p>Hasta el 2016, los gatos habían sido responsable de la extinción de al menos unas 63 especies de animales. De ellas, 40 fueron aves, 21 mamíferos y dos reptiles. Actualmente, otras 367 especies se encuentran amenazadas directamente por dichos felinos. Popularmente se tenía la percepción de que los gatos solo se alimentaban de ratas o ratones en estado silvestre, lo cual es un pensamiento erróneo. De hecho, muchas veces, estos optan por presas más vulnerables y fáciles de cazar. Al ser cazadores oportunistas, aún cuando son alimentados por los humanos, si estos perciben la presencia de una posible presa en su entorno no dudarán en atraparla. En ocasiones pueden matar, pero no siempre consumir a otras especies. Sus presas pueden ir desde aves, mamíferos, reptiles, anfibios, peces, insectos, entre otros. Solamente en los Estados Unidos se estima que anualmente los gatos depredan de 1.3 a 4.0 mil millones de aves, 6.3 a 22.3 mil millones de mamíferos, 258 a 822 millones de reptiles y de 95 a 299 millones de anfibios.</p> <p>Ahora bien, a pesar de que las principales consecuencias que tienen los gatos se centran en su mayoría en la depredación de otros organismos, no se deben de dejar desapercibido la competencia y el desplazamiento de otras especies, el acarreo y transmisión de enfermedades, hibridación, entre otros. Estos factores no afectan a un solo grupo de organismos, si no que tienen impacto y consecuencias en el equilibrio de los ecosistemas. En Madagascar, por ejemplo, estudios con fosa (<i>Cryptoprocta ferox</i>), han encontrado competencia entre estos y los gatos por el tipo de presas que consumen y riesgo de transmisión de enfermedades. De igual forma, se ha demostrado que la presencia de felinos en ciertos ecosistemas provoca que algunas especies nativas se alejen de las zonas o simplemente eviten estas áreas como método de defensa.</p> <p>Cabe destacar, que la toxoplasmosis y la rabia son enfermedades que los gatos pueden acarrear, pudiendo afectar a otros mamíferos, incluyendo a los humanos. Ambas enfermedades no presentan síntomas de inmediato en las personas, de hecho, la toxoplasmosis en ocasiones puede pasar periodos extensos de tiempo y no manifestar síntomas. En el caso de la rabia, una posible exposición por mordedura si no se es atendida a tiempo puede ser mortal para el ser humano.</p> <p>En términos económicos, especies invasoras como los gatos tienen un impacto directo en la economía global. Se estima que en los últimos 50 años el costo económico de estos organismos (programas de erradicación, control, manejo, etc.), ha sido de \$1,288 mil</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>millones. Solamente en Norte América, entre 1970 y 2017, se invirtieron \$1,26 mil millones en especies invasoras.</p> <p>La situación con especies invasoras se agrava en las islas y si estas tienen una alta densidad poblacional y se encuentra en el trópico la problemática puede ser mayor. Los gatos han sido un vivo ejemplo de esto en diversas islas alrededor del mundo. Esto debido a que la fauna nativa no coevolucionó con depredadores de este tipo. Por otro lado, los gatos no tienen depredadores que controlen sus poblaciones y por ende estas continuarán en aumento. Puerto Rico es un vivo ejemplo de esto, donde se percibe un aumento en las poblaciones de gatos en toda la isla. Resultados preliminares de una investigación realizadas en la zona de San Juan encontraron una densidad de 168 individuos por hectárea. En otro estudio realizado en tres bosques de Puerto Rico, en un gradiente de actividad antropogénica, se hallaron felinos en todas las áreas de estudios. Por su parte, en una investigación en la que se evaluó contenido estomacal en 22 gatos capturados en Isla de Mona se halló que el 40% de las presas que estos habían consumidos eran artrópodos y un 33% reptiles endémicos de la isla, en su mayoría en peligro de extinción.</p> <p>De acuerdo con el Reglamento 6765 del Departamento de Recursos Naturales y Ambientales (DRNA), los gatos son considerados como una especie invasora (dañina) en zonas protegidas tales como bosques estatales, refugios de vida silvestres, y reservas. A pesar de esto, han sido poco los esfuerzos y/o los planes de manejo para atender esta problemática. Fuera de las jurisdicciones de las zonas protegidas, ciertos grupos comunitarios han utilizado la técnica &quot;Trap–Neuter–Return&quot; (TNR). Esta práctica no exime que los felinos continúen afectando los ecosistemas nativos ya que los individuos son liberados nuevamente a la vida silvestre. A pesar de que algunos estudios han demostrado su efectividad, esto dependerá de que las colonias de gatos sean de pocos individuos, y se encuentren confinadas a un perímetro reducido. Además, la práctica requiere consistencia, gran cantidad esfuerzo y recursos económicos para ser productiva. Su efectividad puede tardar décadas donde se debe tener un monitoreo constante de la colonia bajo tratamiento. Cabe destacar que esta técnica, puede costar el doble que un programa de captura y eutanasia. No existe ningún estudio publicado que demuestre la efectividad de los esfuerzos de TNR en Puerto Rico.</p> <p>El plan que propone Servicio de Parques Nacionales, para remover los gatos de la zona del Paseo del Morro en el Viejo San Juan sería de las primeras acciones concretas tomadas por una entidad gubernamental para trabajar con esa problemática en la Isla. Es una excelente oportunidad, como punto de partida, para lograr una disminución de las colonias de gatos en zonas urbanas. Lo cual es sumamente necesario y meritorio para los ecosistemas locales, mitigar riesgos a la salud humana, protección del patrimonio nacional, entre otros. Ahora bien, cabe destacar que los esfuerzos de remoción deben de ser constante debido a que estos estarían limitados a una pequeña porción del Viejo San Juan. Al remover esta colonia, posiblemente poblaciones circundantes de felinos ocupen este espacio. Para que eso no ocurra se podría desarrollar algún tipo de barrera como existen en reservas y zonas protegidas en Nueva Zelanda. Otra opción, sería expandir el perímetro de la remoción de individuo a otras áreas de San Juan. De igual forma, desarrollar un registro de los residentes del Viejo San Juan que tengan gatos como mascota para evitar que estos terminen en las calles. Desarrollar un sistema de cámaras de seguridad o vigilancia constante para impedir el abandono y la introducción de nuevos individuos por personas ajenas a la zona. Se debe de incurrir en un programa de educación donde se expongan los riesgos que implicaría el mantener estos animales en las zonas y cuales serían sus beneficios.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Los programas de remoción de gatos han funcionado en países como Australia y Nueva Zelandia, donde inclusive se ha dado reintroducción de especies que han estado seriamente amenazadas y han tenido existo en su propagación con la ausencia de gatos. En la zona del Viejo San Juan se han observado gatos depredando fauna nativa y migratoria. Este tipo de incidentes se pudiera evitar y quizás se tuviera un aumento de especies nativas.</p> <p>Referencias</p> <p>Beck, K. G., Zimmerman, K., Schardt, J. D., Stone, J., Lukens, R. R., Reichard, S., ... & Thompson, J. P. 2008. Invasive species defined in a policy context: Recommendations from the Federal Invasive Species Advisory Committee. <i>Invasive Plant Science and Management</i>, 1(4), 414-421.</p> <p>Doherty, T. S., Glen, A. S., Nimmo, D. G., Ritchie, E. G., & Dickman, C. R. 2016. Invasive predators and global biodiversity loss. <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i>, 113(40), 11261-11265.</p> <p>Diagne, C., Leroy, B., Vaissière, A. C., Gozlan, R. E., Roiz, D., Jarić, I., ... & Courchamp, F. 2021. High and rising economic costs of biological invasions worldwide. <i>Nature</i>, 592(7855), 571-576.</p> <p>DRNA. 2004. Reglamento para Regir la Conservacion y el Manejo de la Vida Silvestre, las Especies Exoticas y la Caza en el Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico. https://bibliotecalegalambiental.files.wordpress.com/2013/11/6765.pdf (accessed 20 November 2022)</p> <p>Dubey, J. P., Cerqueira-Cézar, C. K., Murata, F. H. A., Kwok, O. C. H., Yang, Y. R., & Su, C. 2020. All about toxoplasmosis in cats: the last decade. <i>Veterinary Parasitology</i>, 283, 109145.</p> <p>García, M., C. Diez, and A. Alvarez. 2001. The impact of feral cats on Mona Island wildlife and recommendations for their control. <i>Caribbean Journal of Science</i> 37:107–108 (10)</p> <p>Global Invasive Species Database. 2022. Downloaded from http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/100_worst.php on 22-11-2022</p> <p>Lohr CA, Cox LJ, Lepczyk CA. Costs and benefits of trap-neuter-release and euthanasia for removal of urban cats in Oahu, Hawaii. <i>Conserv Biol</i>. 2013 Feb;27(1):64-73. doi: 10.1111/j.1523-1739.2012.01935.x. Epub 2012 Sep 25. PMID: 23009077.</p> <p>Loss, S. R., Will, T., & Marra, P. P. 2013. The impact of free-ranging domestic cats on wildlife of the United States. <i>Nature Communications</i>, 4, 1396. https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms2380</p> <p>Mahlaba, T. A. M., Monadjem, A., McCleery, R., & Belmain, S. R. 2017. Domestic cats and dogs create a landscape of fear for pest rodents around rural homesteads. <i>PLoS ONE</i>, 12, e0171593. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0171593</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
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2145	<p>The free ranging cats are part of the charm of this trail as well as Old San Juan. The non-profit Save a Gato has been working tirelessly for the last 20 years to ensure that the cats in that area are taken care of as well as providing a successful TNR program that reduces the amount of kittens born in the area every year</p>
2146	<p>The cats in old San Juan are a part of our culture, are a tourist attraction and help control the rodent population.</p> <p>Respect our cats and do not murder them.</p>
2147	<p>Agradezco la oportunidad de ofrecer comentarios. Quisiera sugerir que no se tome acción que termine con la vida de estas criaturas. Más bien, que se colabore con organizaciones del área para esterilizar en masa a gatos hembras y machos u así apoyar la disminución de la población de gatos en el área. Remover o atentar contra la vida de estas criaturas no será una solución permanente o sostenible.</p> <p>I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this issue. I would like to suggest that no action be taken to end the lives of these creatures. Rather, collaborate with organizations in the area to mass sterilize male and female cats and thus support the decline of the cat population in the area. Removing or attempting to kill these creatures will not be a permanent or sustainable solution.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2148	<p>I was born and raised in San Juan (Condado area) Puerto Rico. My parents are originally from Ponce but I grew up in San Juan. I know Old San Juan very well. After studying college in Boston, I went back to live in Puerto Rico in 2004. I specifically chose Old San Juan. I lived in Calle Norzagaray right across Castililo San Cristobal. I was a resident of Old San Juan. I got to know it very well. It was a dream to live there. Across the ocean and to be able to walk and enjoy such a beautiful neighborhood was really an amazing experience. I knew about cats from Old San Juan because my mom had rescued a black kitten called Negri who she found in Dona Fela parking lot. I felt so lucky to grow up with such a special cat. An old San Juan cat. Already famous since decades ago. I love seeing them in the streets of Old San Juan as well once I lived there. What I never expected was to find in Paseo de la Princesa, such a beautiful trail of them, like in movies and paintings, there they were. With their unique looks and character, they were walking by, saying hi, relaxing on the rocks, sleeping and playing by the grass and with you when you watched the sun go down, in the most magical of sunsets I have ever seen. This was my evening walk every day. I looked forward to this and many times I walked alone but it was magical and addictive to take these walks because this was not only a beautiful landmark left by my Spanish ancestors, a fort, a way to protect the city, now it protected by these felines that were independent, fearless and majestic too. That same year, my father died of a heart attack. My walks in Paseo de la Princesa to see the sunset and the cats was the most important and memorable thing I did that year. I have so many memories of the cats. I moved back to Boston but each time I go back to Puerto Rico for vacation I always go to visit this part of old San Juan and marvel at what a great job Save a Gato has done for so many years, protecting them, feeding them and making it possible for visitors who love them to continue to see them safe and healthy and discovering new faces too. When I lived in Old San Juan, I can say I found many things to be a public nuisance; cars blasting each day and night loud music non stop, rowdy tourists and partygoers in the bars and the trash in the streets sometimes. The truth is these cats are NOT a nuisance and have never been. I NEVER saw a mouse or a rat ever in Old San Juan. These cats deserve credit in this as well. I cannot see myself visiting Old San Juan if these cats are no longer there. This is the only tourist attraction that I enjoy at this point when it comes to Old San Juan. A beautiful walk, during the sunset and accompanied by the Old San Juan cats. To be able to connect with them, as I did especially during the time I was mourning my father's death was very healing. I have seen other old San Juan residents visit them too on a regular basis. One of them was an old man who lived in Puntilla. Would go nicely dressed and sit with them almost every evening. We became friends and he was sitting petting this long haired friendly relaxed cat and I was so moved by the image and our interaction. These cats need to be well taken care of, neutered and spayed and they need to be better protected and absolutely need to stay there. Removing them would be a mistake and would depress many people who visit and love them. Times have been hard for many of us already and life has gotten more challenging and even lonelier. These cats allow people to see something special, spontaneous, and magical during a time that has seen so much loss and deprivation too. I hope you will work with the volunteers and come up with a good plan to protect them and allow them to stay. It is not just about the cats thought, it is also about the community it creates, the people it unites and the happiness they bring to many just by being there. Co-existence is the way forward and tourists and visitors want to see life in all its facets not a sterile stone wall that only reminds many of us that our Spanish ancestors built it in stolen land, land that was not theirs. Without the cats, it is not exactly great either to reflect on the walls and just think those who built the walls did it on land that was not theirs. These cats in Old San Juan are a reminder that there is hope and an element of surprise each and every time one visits their home. This is the home of these cats, this area of Old San Juan and they belong there. Period. They belong there.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2149	<p>Good evening,</p> <p>I'm writing this comment very concerned about this situation and asking you to please reconsider the decision of removing the cats from Old San Juan. These cats are well taken care of. The Save a Gato organization takes great care of them. I donate to Save a Gato every year. The cats are not a nuance, quite the opposite, people love seeing them there and it has actually serve as sort of a tourist attraction in a way. The cats are spayed and neutered. They are well fed. They don't pose any risk to the people visiting the area. I visit every time I go back home in Puerto Rico and it brings me happiness. The cat population in the area has actually reduced over the years. Removing thd cats and ending their life is not necessary. There are better ways to deal with this situation, for example providing your support to the Save a Gato organization.</p> <p>I appreciate your consideration,</p>
2150	<p>Saludos</p> <p>Nuestros gatitos no solo son animales realengos, son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Ellos llevan muchos años viviendo allí en convivencia pacífica con las personas del área.</p> <p>Ellos, los gatos, son grandes aliados para los residentes, en especial los dueños de restaurantes a la hora de mantener plagas, como los ratones y ratas bajo control.</p> <p>El tiempo que ellos, los gatos, llevan viviendo en San Juan nunca han tenido problemas ni han sido señalados cómo responsable de algún daño incurrido ya sea en áreas públicas o privadas. Son criaturas amorosas muy queridas y muy apreciadas tanto por los recientes como turistas.</p> <p>Eutanizarlos NO es ni de lejos una solución viable ni mucho menos efectiva. Más bien es cruel e inhumano. Si realmente quieren reducir la sobrepoblación de gatos en San Juan, deberían trabajar mano a mano con las diversas entidades que se encargan de esterilizarlos y buscarles un hogar amoroso y permanente.</p> <p>Ellos no son ningún estorbo. Son seres que sienten y padecen igual que nosotros y tienen el mismo derecho a existir y ser libres sin vivir bajo el yugo del miedo a que se les prive de la vida.</p>
2151	<p>Me gustaría que no se diera el echo de eliminar a los gatos del viejo San Juan ya que ellos son parte del lugar. Le da vida y más verlos libres, esterilizados, vacunados, con alimentos gracias a Save a Gato. De echo, adopte a una gatita hermosa que salió de Save a Gato y hoy día estoy sumamente agradecida con el equipo. Espero que el plan de sacarlos no se lleve a cabo porque sería súper triste y San Juan no sería lo mismo sin ellos.</p>
2152	<p>Me parece injusto lo que quieren hacer con los gatitos. Estos gatos estan operados, disminuyen plagas que el gobierno no se encargan y jamas he visto que causen problemas con turistas que de hecho han donado de una forma u otra para la o las organizaciones que se encargan de mantener estos gatos. Al que viola le dan unos añitos o lo dejan libre y a unos pobres gatos los quieren poner a dormir y no causan ningun problema, esto no tiene sentido.</p>
2153	<p>It is unconscionable to make such a harsh decision when none of the local communities support it. The cats in Old San Juan are part of the community, and are very well taken care of. The citizens of Old San Juan all agree that the cats are an essential part of the community,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	and that they are not a nuisance. No one from Puerto Rico complains about these cats that are so well taken care of, and the repercussions of culling this community are more serious than you have considered. Doing this would be just another way of flashing the impotence of our colonial status under your rule. "No taxation without representation" doesn't apply to your colonies, does it? This is just further evidence of this.
2154	Any plan that does not seek the expertise of organizations doing TNR for the past 20 years and that does not provide support to these organizations is destined fail. For the last 20 years, local groups have been conducting TNR, which is known as the best effort to reduce cat populations over time and to help the cats that are in those communities. Any measure by the government should include listening to the local groups first and then come up with a plan based on collaboration with those groups. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Just listen to what these local groups need and provide it.
2155	Feral cats are a scourge on native birds and wildlife habitats. I support all efforts to rid our public lands of them.
2156	I strongly dispute the need to remove these cats. We travel to PR frequently. These cats are well cared for and neutered so they are not reproducing. They have fantastic caretakers who look out for them. We really ENJOY seeing them when we visit. Please spare these cats! They are no trouble to you and do not deserve to be eliminated.
2157	The community cats mean so much to me; I visit them every time I come to PR. Having a healthy, sterilized cat population is what Save A Gato has been working tirelessly for the past 20 years to achieve. Please allow them to continue working with these cats to prevent needless suffering. Thank you.
2158	<p>Hi!</p> <p>I hope to convince that the current cat management is enough.</p> <p>I visit the Pasco myself and it is very nice to see the happy cats. The smell of the sea and the breeze masks the smell for the most part. And the population has gone down, so I don't see an issue long term as long as the cats are neutered.</p> <p>The cats are happy and eliminate varmin that carry worse diseases than the cats. Please allow them to stay and simply keep the feeding stations clean and keep neutering them.</p>
2159	Estoy a favor de la organización Save a Gato y no apoyo la remoción de los gatitos del Morro, del Viejo San Juan en Puerto Rico!
2160	<p>Put down that bag of potato chips, that white bread, that bottle of pop.</p> <p>Turn off that cellphone, computer, and remote control.</p> <p>Open the door, then close it behind you.</p> <p>Take a breath offered by friendly winds. They travel the earth gathering essences of plants to clean.</p> <p>Give it back with gratitude.</p> <p>If you sing it will give your spirit lift to fly to the stars' ears and back.</p> <p>Acknowledge this earth who has cared for you since you were a dream planting itself</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>precisely within your parents' desire.</p> <p>Let your moccasin feet take you to the encampment of the guardians who have known you before time, who will be there after time. They sit before the fire that has been there without time.</p> <p>Let the earth stabilize your postcolonial insecure jitters.</p> <p>Be respectful of the small insects, birds and animal people who accompany you. Ask their forgiveness for the harm we humans have brought down upon them.</p> <p>Don't worry. The heart knows the way though there may be high-rises, interstates, checkpoints, armed soldiers, massacres, wars, and those who will despise you because they despise themselves.</p> <p>The journey might take you a few hours, a day, a year, a few years, a hundred, a thousand or even more.</p> <p>Watch your mind. Without training it might run away and leave your heart for the immense human feast set by the thieves of time.</p> <p>Do not hold regrets.</p> <p>When you find your way to the circle, to the fire kept burning by the keepers of your soul, you will be welcomed.</p> <p>You must clean yourself with cedar, sage, or other healing plant.</p> <p>Cut the ties you have to failure and shame.</p> <p>Let go the pain you are holding in your mind, your shoulders, your heart, all the way to your feet. Let go the pain of your ancestors to make way for those who are heading in our direction.</p> <p>Ask for forgiveness.</p> <p>Call upon the help of those who love you. These helpers take many forms: animal, element, bird, angel, saint, stone, or ancestor.</p> <p>Call your spirit back. It may be caught in corners and creases of shame, judgment, and human abuse.</p> <p>You must call in a way that your spirit will want to return.</p> <p>Speak to it as you would to a beloved child.</p> <p>Welcome your spirit back from its wandering. It may return in pieces, in tatters. Gather them together. They will be happy to be found after being lost for so long.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Your spirit will need to sleep awhile after it is bathed and given clean clothes.</p> <p>Now you can have a party. Invite everyone you know who loves and supports you. Keep room for those who have no place else to go.</p> <p>Make a giveaway, and remember, keep the speeches short.</p> <p>Then, you must do this: help the next person find their way through the dark.</p> <p>Please, please, please don't kill any living thing that belongs to a spirit.</p>
2161	<p>Cats are living beings that deserve just as much as humans to reside freely in the world. Leave them alone and let them be!</p>
2162	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I vehemently oppose the removal of the cats from Save A Gato. Not only the reasons given to remove them are vague, they are not backed up by evidence. The amount of tourists that stop by just to visit the cats is enormous and the residents love them as well. Save A Gato has done a magnificent job caring for these cats, why not help them in other ways instead? One of my cats is a former SJ resident adopted through them. Please stop this nefarious plan, find other solutions and leave the beautiful creatures who are not go blame live in peace in their beloved colony. Thank you.</p>
2163	<p>Please, this is a managed area that has dedicated caretakers. These innocent animals do not harm anyone and likely keep rodent issues away. It has not been an issue for 20 years, why make it an issue now. P</p>
2164	<p>Una de las razones por las miles de visitas a SJU es para visitar a estos gatitos, que nos llenan el día de felicidad y paz. Merecen seguir andando las calles de SJU, ayudan al prójimo y ellos merecen la vida. Merecen ser feliz, la misma felicidad que transmiten al humano. Aparte de eso ayudan a que no tengan animales no deseados como las ratas y mangostas entre otras. Porque apagar la luz de la felicidad de SJU. QUE VIVAN LOS GATOS! Que viva la felicidad. Que viva el amor a los animales.</p>
2165	<p>Nuestros gatitos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Muchos son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas.</p>
2166	<p>I would like to speak up for the cats that cannot speak up for themselves. The cats in Old San Juan have been a staple for the locals and the tourists. I have had many family and friends who have visited us on the island ask to go to old San Juan and go on a tour just to see the cats.</p> <p>I volunteer once a month at Save A Gato, located just next to El Morro. Save a Gato is a wonderful organization that works hard to sterilize, medicate, and feed the local cats. I have never seen an unwell cat outside on the streets of old San Juan. Save a Gato is not only a catch and release program, but they also adopt out as many cats as that they can.</p> <p>Just last month when I was volunteering on a Sunday evening, 3 out of town visitors saw the doors to Save a Gato open and came in to talk about their experiences. Two of the visitors were honeymooning couples that adopted a cat while visiting!</p> <p>Old San Juan and the National Parks located their would never be the same if the cats were removed. The park is their home. And they make the perfect pest control companions!</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2167	Los gatitos son parte de la madre flora y fauna. Por favor no los remuevan de su hábitat. Traen gozo y son parte del paraíso que es el viejo San Juan.
2168	Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I object to this proposal. The cats of Paseo Del Morro are a well managed colony with support for its program sterilizing the cats and monitoring them as I witnessed first hand on a recent visit. I interacted with the volunteers and local citizens specifically in relation to the cats throughout my visit, including two visits to Save A Gato. Removing the cats will only create a vacuum effect to be filled by cats from surrounding areas. The local volunteers are doing a tremendous job that should be lauded rather than undermined.
2169	El Viejo San Juan es el único lugar que conoce estos gatos y la organización Save a Gato se encarga de esterilizarlos. Además, estos ayudan a mantener bajo control las ratas.
2170	No los maten! 🙏
2171	<p>I was born and raised in Puerto Rico and have fond memories of visiting the San Juan National Historic site. The cat colony in this area is part of the park. According to trip advisor, visiting the save a gato cat sanctuary at the park is #33 (out of 252) of things to do while in San Juan. There are at least 168 reviews from visitors and tourists who have rated the cat sanctuary a 4.5 out of 5.</p> <p>I ask that the National Park Service recognize and support the efforts of non profit organizations like Save a Gato, who make a priority the sterilization of feral cats through TNR (trap-neuter-return). The Save a Gato organization also administers vaccines to promote a healthy cat colony.</p> <p>I urge the NPS to continue the agreement with Save a Gato and provide resources and funds for the program to continue successfully for animal welfare & humane treatment of the cats at San Juan National Historic site.</p>
2172	No es normal vivir en una sociedad que prefiere eutanzar a los gatos que pasean por las calles de San Juan. ¿Por qué mejor no buscamos otra solución?
2173	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico and know firsthand the issues surrounding animal welfare. I understand that the local government is unable to properly control the population of stray cats and dogs on the island. What I do not understand is why the only solution your organization can think of involves destroying healthy, adoption ready cats. How about a cat cafe or an adoption center next to a visitors welcome center?</p> <p>Removing the current population of cats will not solve your long-term problem. Creating a framework to sterilize and get these cats adopted is your best option; One that does not undermine your institution's history of protecting animals in their natural habitat. The cats of El Morro in Old San Juan deserve a better solution than being destroyed. Please reconsider your approach.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>
2174	<p>I am writing this message in order to oppose the removal of the cats located at el paseo del morro. I am puerto rican but living in Miami. Whenever we go to PR, my wife always visits the cats at el paseo del morro. They have been a fixture of el morro for many years. The cats are healthy and taken care of by various caretakers. WHY remove them? They make so many tourists happy. Removing them means killing them which is inhumane and unnecessary. PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THEM.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2175	<p>I strongly agree with, and support, the "No Action" alternative. Save a Gato should be allowed to continue the work they have undertaken for over 20 years. The cats in the area are well-fed, well-cared for, and do not create an unsafe environment for the humans who visit the paseo. In my opinion, the NPS should use the resources they would need to use to contract with an exterminator and instead invest in Save a Gato to TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) more of the cats in this community.</p> <p>It is a common misconception that if you take the food away (in this case the feeding stations), then the cats will go away, or in this case, will not return to the area once removed and euthanized. By eliminating the existing cat population, you would instead create a vacuum for other cats to fill, but instead of there being a community of sterilized, vaccinated cats, you would end up with malnourished cats that have not been vaccinated nor sterilized. When cats are malnourished as they would become in your plan, they are more likely to develop parasitic infections and become ill, as well as move closer to human populations, i.e., the tourists. Instead of feeding stations for the cats to go to, you would actually increase the likelihood of visitor-cat interactions as the cats will look for a new food source and they will find this food source with your tourists. This would create an unsafe environment where you would not have involvement from an established organization (Save a Gato) to help you.</p> <p>It would also be more helpful if the NPS could provide data to back up their claims like, "Cat surveys at feeding stations have shown rats feeding alongside cats," and "Visitors that approach free-ranging cats at the park could also be bitten or scratched." Cats are known to control rodent populations; one or two instances of cats feeding alongside rats is not a compelling argument. This would need to be backed up with actual evidence. Do you have data on how many visitors have been bitten or scratched? Approaching any animal, carries risk. By opting to try and pet a cat, the person approaching the animal is making a choice that could carry a consequence. I feel that this could easily be solved with signs about the feral cat population educating the public, rather than exterminating the cats.</p> <p>Finally, the NPS notes that the population of free-ranging cats back in 2005 was estimated to be 120 cats along the Paseo. The cat population now, 16 years later stands at, at least 200 individuals, essentially an addition of 5 cats per year. This is not a large increase. This is TNR working. Is there always more to be done? Of course. The NPS needs to work with Save a Gato on the health of this cat population, not euthanize and essentially begin again with a population of unsterilized individuals who will fill this vacuum. If you are unhappy with the location of the feeding stations, bring in some outside experts to work on a mutual arrangement. You can build on the hard work that has already been done instead of burning the whole thing to the ground. As someone who has visited beautiful Puerto Rico many times myself, and looked upon the work Save a Gato has completed as a successful TNR example, it is unfortunate to think that the NPS is looking to spend taxpayer dollars on a misguided euthanasia campaign. Thank you for your time.</p>
2176	<p>Hello!</p> <p>I am in full support of Save a Gato and the beautiful labor they do with the cats in Old San Juan. I work for 12 years at The Ritz-Carlton, San Juan and something that I ask my guest what the llike about their trip to Old San Juan was always seen the cat community and how well care there were.</p> <p>In several occasions, I have guest the adopts several of this cats and I help them do all the</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>necessary paperwork for them to bring them back home with them. I also contribute to Save a Gato financially to help them with their beautiful mission.</p> <p>I am oppose for the cats to be remove as I consider them part of the Old San Juan landmark. We should better propose to better provide Save a Gato with funds to keep the cats healthy.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention!</p>
2177	<p>Porfavor no maten los gatos del viejos san juan. Buesquen otras opciones como adopcion</p>
2178	<p>Buenas noches. Llevo años viviendo en San Juan y el area del Viejo San Juan es uno de mis lugares favoritos de visitar. Entre varias actividades que hago como turismo interno y visitar restaurantes y negocios locales, disfruto mucho la compañía de Los Gatos que se encuentran por el área. Si, que son bastantes y que hay ciertos lugares que emiten un cierto olor, pero hay que encontrar una resolución pacífica o trasladarlos a un hogar o santuario, ya que no sólo los locales, pero los turistas disfrutan de su compañía y hasta me han contado de sus encuentros con ellos.</p>
2179	<p>Dejen los gatos en su ambiente natural ya que la organizacion save a gato los esta cuidando muy bien y la gete le gusta y los turistas ♥</p>
2180	<p>A los turistas les gusta mucho. Dejenlos alli, o busquen opciones como adopcion pero que no los pongan a dormir</p>
2181	<p>Los gatos son residentes del Viejo San Juan. Mercen estar ahí !! No son una amenaza para nosotros al contrario son muy amorosos y hacen esta área un mejor lugar. Además, hacen una gran labor en el control de plagas de ratas. Son bien cuidados y mantenidos gracias a las diversas entidades dedicadas a estos gatos y los mismos residentes del Viejo San Juan. Se debe tomar otra ruta alterna para ayudar con el problema de sobrepoblación, no optar por quitarles sus vidas. Ellos hacen ver las calles del viejo San Juan mas vivas ♥</p>
2182	<p>As a recent visitor to San Juan, I believe that the cats in the park should be left as they are to be properly managed by Save A Gato and any other interested organizations. Cat populations such as the one in the park are difficult, if not impossible, to entirely remove and even if removed may very well return. Cats may otherwise be forced into less hospitable areas where they are more difficult to care for and manage with TNR programs or be captured and domesticated. It is far better to have a known and managed population, with a dual strategy of TN for those cats that cannot be adopted due to their disposition and adoption for those that can be, than to simply hope that a &quot;removal&quot; strategy will actually be successful.</p>
2183	<p>You dont have idea how important these cats are in Old San Juan... they represent part of our heritage and are responsible for keeping the area free of rats and mice. They don't bother anyone in this area...</p>
2184	<p>I was ashamed to read of the National Park Service's proposal. Please do not remove the cats. They are iconic, celebrated, and most importantly, they are living creatures that deserve compassion. It would be more humane, ethical, and logical to allocate funds to support local organizations who already provide spay and neuter services in the area, and to help educate the public on the community benefit of spaying and neutering their own pets. Eliminating the current cat population will not end the cycle of people dumping pregnant cats and kittens. It is compassion, education, and TNR that will have the most significant and long-term effect. Moreover, removing the cats will lead to a dramatic increase in the rat population.</p> <p>I would like to add that if the National Park Service proceeds with these plans, I will cease all donations to the National Park Service, including the National Park Foundation. I will not</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	help fund this callous proposal and will instead continue to donate to TNR organizations like Save A Gato.
2185	We oppose the forced removal of the cats from the El Morro historical park. They are beloved by the locals and the tourists alike. They are all spayed and neutered and they don't pose any particular threat to any local wildlife as this is in the middle of the city. All they do is maintain the rat population at bay. Please do not remove the cats. Thank you.
2186	Our kitties are residents of Old San Juan. Many are very loving and make this area a better place. In addition, they do a great job in controlling rat pests. They are well cared for and maintained thanks to the various entities dedicated to these cats and the residents of Old San Juan themselves. Another alternative route should be taken to help with the overpopulation problem, not choose to take their lives.
2187	Hello, I support programs to remove/reduce the population of feral cats at the Park. Cats kill 1.3-4 billion birds per year and millions or billions more mammals. The current program of trap/sterilize/release is not curbing the population. Unless the entire city/island could partake on a large scale such a program it will not stop the problem. Further education on why feral cats pose such a problem for the environment and guest experience would hopefully bring more supporters for this initiative. Thank you.
2188	We were there in April/May 2022 and loved visiting the kitties. We went out of our way to see them. Let the cats stay!
2189	The local colony is well managed by the local rescue group. It is clear that their program of tnr reduces overall members whilst keeping less managed cats away. The site itself does not contain a reasonable population of native breeding animals that would justify such intervention. Disappointed that federal funds would be wasted on such a project. The government cannot even help the people in PR but would waste money on a project that local volunteer groups are already solving. Wste of time, money, and resources at a time when bigger issues are at stake. „Feds fight cats, but can't take care of people". Great social media commentary awaits.
2190	<p>I was born and raised in Puerto Rico. I moved to the mainland one year ago. I have been an avid cat lover for the better part of my life. I have an older cousin, whom I look up to, who is too. Through her, I learned about SAG many years ago. We volunteered together at La Casita Rosa. We were there when they rehabilitated the shelter, I have many pictures and beautiful memories of that day. I even adopted my eldest cat from a litter that was born in La Fortaleza, and later cared for by SAG, 11 years ago. We volunteered at PetSmart Escorial, who, partnered with SAG, provide even more opportunities for other sectors to adopt cats who come from Viejo San Juan.</p> <p>I am more than a witness to the amazing work SAG does. They are passionate about their mission and they have been for a long time. Their simple, but hard work has made a huge difference in San Juan. Not only for residents and tourists, but to the amazing community of cats they care for. Their commitment to the work they do has had such an impact that they have become invaluable for Puerto Rico. They are caring people who, with very little, have done a lot. They have come a long way and have much more care to share with the cats of Viejo San Juan. Please do not deprive them of the opportunity to continue sharing the work they do. To continue educating the generations to come. Like me, who, through volunteering and adopting, have learned so much about how amazing caring for cats can be. They are the best companions anyone could ask for and they deserve a chance at life. This is what SAG offers them. The chance of a life with dignity and love. A chance to live in harmony with the residents of our beautiful capital. They even return their care and love for us by keeping the</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>streets free of rats and other invasive species. They are HELPING US as we help them!</p> <p>Please do not erase all the work these people have done throughout the years. We have so many other things to worry about and removing these cats would not only mean that they lose their lives, but all the hard work and time dedicated to this AMAZING cause would disappear. Puerto Rico and the World NEED more people like SAG and to remove these cats would simply mean that SAG's purpose ceases to exist. We need more caring and less destroying. Please please please do not crush the purpose of this amazing organization, without the cats, SAG is no more. And we need more.</p>
2191	<p>I am a proud supporter of Save A Gato in Puerto Rico. Every time I got to Puerto Rico whether it's during the summer or Christmas I look forward to spending some of my time visiting the cats in San Juan. For 20 years I've been doing this and I know my family has as well. It would be an absolute tragedy for the cats to be taken away from their home and iconic location. They have a history and bring happiness to natives and the tourists that visit. They are a part of our culture, they are Puerto Rico! With everything changing and the government not supporting its people and the island the least they could do is leave the cats alone, instead of trying to diminish what makes Puerto Rico Puerto Rico. I would understand if they were a nuisance but there are organizations and people taking care of the cats, including supporters from all around the world. Let the gatitos stay!</p>
2192	<p>Dear National Park Service:</p> <p>It is truly sad that an organization we trust our parks to is willing to engage in such outrageous behavior.</p> <p>I know this organization and PR's situation very well and this has NOTHING to do with cats, public health, or quality of life. Corruption in PR is rampant but it's rare to see that a Federal agency would engage with it. The people behind this clearly do not understand that without the cats Old San Juan would be inhabitable and would be taken over by rats and pests. SAG has presented robust evidence against your plan and also humane alternatives. There is so MUCH more you could be doing in PR that would TRULY benefit the island and its people that it's mindblowing that the paseo cats are a priority to you. Please focus on the things that would truly aid the island's prosperity. Show some mercy to the cats that have done nothing wrong and also have the same right to exist.</p>
2193	<p>To whom it may concern I am an avid supporter of the Save A Gato foundation in Puerto Rico. Taking the cats away from their home would be destruction of history and culture. They are an icon in San Juan and many people visit and care for them. There are supporters who donate, volunteer, and love those cats from around the world and it would be a true disservice to the community. The cats are friendly and bring happiness to everyone. Do not let rich people buying up Puerto Rico try to influence the way Puerto Rico should be. Those cats are a part of our culture and pride. Please save the cats for the future generations that haven't had the chance to see them.</p>
2194	<p>Firstly, thank you for maintaining the Paseo del Morro so beautifully. It is a national treasure, as are the cats of El Paseo and the people of Save a Gato (&quot;SAG&quot;) that manage them so well, imo.</p> <p>I spoke at one of the public meetings where I recounted my own experience of TNR (which I learned about from volunteering for SAG) with a fairly enclosed situation at the condo where I live.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Beginning 6 years ago I was able to reduce a colony of 30 cats to 6 within about a year and 1/2, mostly via tnr and adoption. There are now only 4 beautifully healthy, full time cats ages 7 to 10 yrs approx. We still get "visitors" from neighboring communities which I TNR as they come, but the colony cats keep most of them from settling in on a permanent basis.</p> <p>I know of other similar managed condo colonies in PR, which are a microcosm and PROOF OF CONCEPT for the cats of Viejo San Juan, "VSJ"; The difference, you say, is the much larger area and the fact that VSJ is not an enclosed system. You say that because of this, TNR does not work in VSJ, but your own figures prove that it DOES.</p> <p>You say that there were already 120, self-colonized cats in 2005 before SAG began their TNR program and now, almost 20 years later, there are ONLY 80 more. That number is amazing in and of itself considering the situation, but does not take into account the many THOUSANDS of others that have been adopted over the years, thus taken OFF the streets of VSJ and el Paseo with a humane and happy ending.</p> <p>In other words, if it weren't for the SAG TNR program there would likely be at least hundreds more cats in the area right now, which would also be much unhealthier and sickly looking than the managed TNR cats, not a great visitor experience! Because with or without SAG, cats will continue to free roam into the area, and people will continue to dump them. You cannot kill your way out of the cat problem in Puerto Rico, and if you try, you will have maybe weeks of "relief" from the cats before they begin to re-colonize the area, vs a lifetime of bad feelings and bad publicity.</p> <p>We ALL wish for the same end, which is zero cats on the streets! This is an unattainable dream at this time but the population can be controlled humanely, and free to you and the tax-payer :) via TNR and adoption, or inhumanely and extremely costly to you and the tax-payer via killing them. Killing them doesn't work anyway, as I have seen with my own eyes going back to my situation where several roundups of cats were conducted over the years, and yet, colonies always re-established themselves within months, because you cannot trap and kill them all, just as you cannot trap and TNR them all. So either way, you will have to have to have an ongoing program.</p> <p>Which is why I vote for the "NO ACTION" alternative "PLUS", the plus being incorporating the cats into the official visitor experience with education, info and history on the cats, why spaying and neutering your own pets is important, and why abandoning cats is a no-no etc, thereby continuing to be a win-win for all.</p> <p>I would also like to address a couple of other items in your paper:</p> <p>The "Health and Safety" section is a bit scare-mongering: Please let us know how many visitors have contracted "toxoplasmosis, rabies, bartonellosis, plague, and flea-borne typhus" from this or any other managed cat colony in the last 20 years.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>The Black Rat is also known to cause many of these and other diseases such as food-poisoning, and trichinosis. Would the rat population be smaller or larger with the cats &quot;gone&quot;? (hint: larger!) How many visitors have been bitten?</p> <p>&quot;Issues with visitor experience&quot; Of course you will hear about injured cats, but surely any &quot;complaints&quot; are more out of concern for the cats welfare than their own. I know SAG volunteers keep an eye out for any sick or injured animal and help them as quickly as they can. Without SAG they would be left to ail and die. Puerto Rico already has a bad reputation for its treatment of animals with many potential visitors staying away because of it. Please don't make the matter worse for the industry.</p> <p>&quot;Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat&quot;, again scaremongering. These are urban cats, that much prefer to feed on easily available food whether from restaurant trash bins or feeding stations, vermin and even cockroaches, than much harder to catch birds, the populations of which are much more devastated by human endeavors.</p> <p>&quot;Non-native Species - Cats&quot; Cats have been in VSJ for over 500 years, about as long as that other non-native species ;)</p>
2195	<p>For the past two decades I've taken my wife and daughter to San Juan and every time we visit we make sure to see the iconic cats of San Juan. Our love for them has grown with every moment and every visit. Tourists and natives alike share a love and bond for these sweet creatures and there is support globally for them. San Juan would not be San Juan without the famous cats lounging around and greeting people. Save A Gato organization has done so much over the years and gained a multitude of supporters including my family. The cats are well taken care of and put up for adoption and neutered/spayed to control the population. They are a part of our island and lifestyle and should remain at peace where they are. It would be a crime to go into someone else's home and kick them out and that is the same with these precious animals. Reconsider and think about all the efforts people are putting in to save the Puerto Rican cats.</p>
2196	<p>When I lived in Puerto Rico and would visit San Juan I saw the population of cats slowly increase over the years and as they increased the more people looked out for them. The cats were friendly and well fed by people and eventually became a part of the community. Organizations have been created to control the population, adoption, and safety of the cats which has benefited the area. From viejitos to tourists everyone visits and shows love to the famous and iconic cats of San Juan. They are loved by the people and deserve to stay where they are please do not remove the cats and take away a part of history from Puerto Rico.</p>
2197	<p>I am writing in regard to the proposal to remove the cats living in Paseo del Morro in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. These cats are part of the history of the area and are loved by tourists. They are also well cared for by Save a Gato, who has been working for 20 years to make sure that the cats are spayed/neutered and healthy while also trying to find the friendlier cats homes. During my recent trip I stayed longer in Old San Juan than planned just to make sure I could see this area with the cats and it was one of the highlights of my trip. Please do not remove the cats from this location. Having visited friends in San Juan, I have heard how much they mean to people living there and also are enjoyable for tourists. There are several cat colonies in the city I live — if taken care of (as they are currently by Save a Gato), these cats will not multiply and can live healthy lives without bothering anyone.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2198	<p>While visiting and walking extensively around Paseo del Morro, we came across the cat sanctuary. I was impressed by the efforts of Save A Gato and it's volunteers to care for the cats while maintaing the integrity of a National Park. I did not notice any offputting smells of urine or feces from the cats. The cats did not impede my visit in any way and roamed alongside the chickens in the park. I also did not hear anyone around me comment negatively about their experience. For such a large space, I thought the cats were relatively well contained. While I respect the view that cats are an invasive species, especially in relationship to birds, this would be a likely issue at an alternate site. Without providing statistics of incident, I think reasoning humans contracting parasites from cats through ingesting contaminated soil or feces is a stretch and is no more probable than when visiting a farm or zoo.</p> <p>While I am only a visitor to the area, I fail to see the benefit in attempting to relocate the cat sanctuary. An attempt to relocate the cats would likely result in a less established volunteer base to assist in humanely caring for the cats. I would also imagine there would be an increased financial burden as Save A Gato appears to carry much of the financial burden currently in caring for the cats along with their supporters. Moving the sanctuary would reduce exposure for the positive work being done and in turn likely result in a decrease in funding from visitors and the general public.</p> <p>Additional resources for cats that are sick or inappropriately abandoned would help alleviate some of the issues. Opting for a cat management plan that involves ceasing current programming does not in itself appear to be an appropriate or humane solution in the long run.</p>
2199	<p>Hi, Save a Gato has been working for 20 years to sterilize and care for these cats. Killing these animals is not the solution. A better solution would be funding and community / government help to continue sterilizing these cat populations so that they can live a better, healthier life and reduce the amount of cats without a home in the streets. The solution should not be to kill an animal that you see as a "pest" or a "problem", we are better than this archaic thinking. We are good, empathetic, and smart humans that can come up with better solutions. Some people might think that cats are detrimental to the fauna in the environment, but they actually pose a great benefit and have the immense task in keeping populations of rodents and bugs in check. They are hard workers and sweet animals that deserve our compassion and help.</p> <p>Just a little historical fact; the bubonic plague spread as much as it did because the cats that would usually get rid of disease-plagued rodents were killed in high numbers, which led to an overpopulation of rats carrying the bubonic plagued that killed millions of people.</p> <p>Cats are helpful. They deserve our love and compassion. The people at Save a Gato that worked tirelessly for 20 years to help these cats and give them a better life don't deserve for their hard work and dedication to go to waste.</p> <p>Find a better solution. For the cats and for the people.</p>
2200	<p>To Whom it May Concern:</p> <p>I have a dear friend who has visited Puerto Rica from Chicago several times in recent years and has witnessed the excellent work of Save a Gato! The work by Volunteers to trap & neuter cats has made a huge difference.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>I sincerely believe that people who do not spay & neuter their pets & let them run wild are at the heart of the problem, NOT the cats themselves.</p> <p>Please think of & value these innocent lives. I strongly object to this proposal.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
2201	<p>The removal of the cats at Old San Juan will not only bring new problems (like the rats etc), it will affect the entire atmosphere the locals and tourist look for everyday. There are a non profit organization that sterilize and feeds them. Also neighbors care them and send them to veterinarian. Doing things differently will bring opportunities, please do different here at PR. Applying general policies to different cultures and entire different ambients could bring more problems than solving</p>
2202	<p>Thank you for including the community in your feral cat discussion for NPS. I have been managing feral cat colonies via TNR for over 15 years and can attest to the fact that large feral cat colonies can be successfully managed via humane TNR tactics. If a cat colony is removed from its location it will lead to what we call the 'vacuum effect'. There will always be wild, abandoned and free roaming cats in San Juan. These cats will move in amd take the place of the cats that were extracted from the NPS site. The only way to manage a cat colony and to achieve your listed goals is to throw all of your support and resources to the dedicated people of Save a Gato. With additional support, financial resources and volunteers they could expand their TNR services into the neighboring communities of the Park to ensure those pets cats are sterilized and vaccinated, provide low or no cost spay/neuter services to the community to curb pet overpopulation and to provide outreach and education to reiterate the importance of keeping cats indoors, etc.. If you can address this issue as acommunity I have confidence you will start to see the results you're needing to abide by NPS policies. Thank you.</p>
2203	<p>Please do not remove the cats within Paseo Del Morro, Old San Juan. The cats having a healthy, sterilized cat population is what Save A Gato has been working tirelessly for the past 20 years to achieve.</p>
2204	<p>Los gatos del VSJ estan cuidados por la organización Save a Gato. Hay muchas personas que cuidan de ellos, les dan comida y amor! Es un gusto pasar por ahi y encontrarse con tantos gatos... ya que son tranquilos y no posan riesgo significante. Ya son parte del lugar. Porfavor escuchen a tanta gente que les estan diciendo que queremos los gatos ahi! Gracias.</p>
2205	<p>The cats of El Paseo de La Princesa in Old San Juan are part of the scenery, the attraction and the community. These cats are receiving the necessary veterinary care and daily maintenance requirements. As a former active volunteer and current veterinary technician specialist working in Colorado, USA I recognize their value and have kept in touch with the community for their care. Tourists that visit for pleasure, have been known to return to adopt and volunteer due to the impact this TNR project has had in them.</p>
2206	<p>Felis silvestris catus is the scientific name for the domestic, or house cat, whose closest relative is the species Felis silvestris lybica , the African Wild Cat.</p> <p>Being domesticated, these are not wild animals, they need assistance to remain healthy, such as feeding stations. Hiring an outside agency to remove the cats is disgusting and not acceptable. Trap, neuter, and return has time after time been proven successful for preventing overpopulation, reducing vermin, and as a humane option for managing domestic</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>feline colonies. Eliminating cats in one area will only bring in others and the cycle never ends. I have visited San Juan and enjoyed observing these cats on our walking tour, seeing them was a highlight of our trip. Save a Gato should continue to be utilized for their hard work in this area- with additional resources and financial assistance. There are boundless opportunities where this could be capitalized for volunteer experiences in the veterinary and animal lover community. A non-profit organization does not have control over the misbehavior and dumping by the public. There are many locations for recreation and history where animal populations are managed without removal and euthanasia- such as the Hemingway cats and Hawaiian chickens.</p>
2207	<p>Dejen los gatos quietos. Son parte de la comunidad. Que están ahí hace años Te rogamos que por favor los deje salvos</p>
2208	<p>As a Puertorican veterinarian working in the USA, I recognize the value the TNR cat community has in Old San Juan. These cats are well taken care of and receive recommended veterinary care. The overwhelming population of stray animals in the Island is something to pay attention and start acting and Save a Gato is doing their part in a fantastic and responsible way. This TNR community also acts as a tourist attraction and encourages humane actions.</p>
2209	<p>These cats are part of the cultural history of Viejo San Juan and should not be removed.</p>
2210	<p>I wholeheartedly disagree to remove the cats from the Paseo. Save a Gato has worked tirelessly for over a decade to keep the cats in this area as healthy as possible, fed, spayed/neutered, which is not easy feat considering they work with limited resources, space, and donations. As Save a Gato ensures the majority of these cats are vetted, these cats are highly unlikely to carry diseases that can pose a public health hazard. These cats do not harm visitors as they either keep to themselves or a sociable.</p> <p>Save a Gato continues to do a phenomenal job for the cats of Old San Juan, purely based on dedication, kindness, and love for these cats. If it were not for their efforts, there would be more cats in the area and more that would be sick and injured. Also, there needs to be a solution put in place to address the issue of people abandoning cats in the area. Cameras can be installed or security added to the area to ensure this does not happen and/or to be able to apprehend those people who violate the law when they abandon their cat(s).</p> <p>If you do decide to remove these cats from this area, I propose a new alternative. Allow Save a Gato to round up the cats (and not the removal agency who will surely euthanize them) and give them the funds to finish vetting all cats and fly them to the US in search of forever homes for the adoptable ones. As for the ones that are not adoptable, work with Save a Gato for a solution but I am sure these would be a minority. In my experience, even very feral cats can be domesticated eventually.</p> <p>Also if you were to remove the cats from this area, how are you going to ensure no other colonies form here? It is a sad and undeniable fact stray dog and cat population in PR is never-ending (due to pet abandonment, lack of spay/neuter education and low adoption rates) and the root cause for why we are in this situation. Cats will always be in Old San Juan and in this area so having Save a Gato ensure the ones that are there are healthy, neutered/spayed, and fed is best for all parties involved.</p> <p>Please do not remove the cats from el Paseo!</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2211	Please consider a trap/neuter/release (TNR) program for the colony of cats living on park property in Puerto Rico. I recommend looking to the Disney parks as an example and working with local organizations such as Save A Gato. It is healthier to have a cared for and controlled TNRed cat colony than to attempt to wipe the cats out, which will only leave a vacuum for more cats and the need to continually repeat the process. Cats are too prodigious to be kept out of an outdoor area like this entirely, so look at ways to work with them instead of fighting bull-headedly against their presence.
2212	I had the pleasure of spending an afternoon with the free-ranging cats that are cared for by Save a Gato at Paseo del Morro. The cats are so sweet and generally stay out of the way, minding their own business. They have needs, feelings, and lives that matter, and I feel they really are part of the community and landscape of Old San Juan. If they must be removed from the trail, please consider at least relocating them so that they may live out their lives happily rather than going with a more permanent eradication.
2213	They are living beings and are deserving of living. Please consider that they matter. Their little feline lives matter. There is a worldwide network of people that love them. Please. They deserve this one life.
2214	<p>Please do not remove the cats of Old San Juan! They are the lifeblood and joy of the area just as the monuments and nature of the area are. There are no reasons to get rid of them, as they are not a nuisance to the public and are well taken care of by local organizations who have been in charge of them for decades.</p> <p>The NPS is trying to fix a system that isn't broken and doesn't bother people, and you haven't even provided a proper proposal for removing the cats that is ethical, cost effective, and approved up by local majority.</p> <p>Say no to dead cats! Protect the cats of Old San Juan, and allow organizations like Save a Gato to continue their wonderful work caring for the community.</p>
2215	<p>Estimados:</p> <p>me desempeño como catedrática en la Universidad de Puerto Rico en Río Piedras. Soy miembro activa en la comunidad por el bienestar y los derechos de los animales no-humanos y en el pasado fui voluntaria de Save A Gato.</p> <p>Durante los años trabajando en el área, Save A Gato ha logrado reducir a cerca de una tercera parte la población original que formaba la colonia de gatos allí establecida. Para entender que este logro constituye una hazaña, no se puede perder de perspectiva que los gatos no se encuentran en una comunidad cerrada, sino una a la que se tiene acceso libremente. El Viejo San Juan, al igual que todo Puerto Rico, es un área en donde hay gatos —muchos sin esterilizar— cuyos guardianes les permiten andar libremente en los exteriores. Estos se reproducen en áreas aledañas, pero como parte del perímetro que pueden recorrer, también pueden presentarse en el Paseo. También es VSJ—de nuevo, como todo Puerto Rico— víctima del abandono de animales. Save A Gato ha asumido una tarea onerosa, abrumadora y que ha sido delegada de manera abusiva a una organización que funciona 100% a base de voluntarios. Las tareas de proveer apoyo para control de la sobrepoblación deben recaer primordialmente en las instituciones públicas; nuestro país ha delegado esos trabajos a los cientos de ciudadanos que no pueden seguir ignorando el sufrimiento y que, sacrificando sus vidas y recursos, no solo se entregan a servir, sino que también deben dedicar energías a educar a aquellos que hacen sus tareas más difíciles por la ignorancia, apatía e intolerancia.</p> <p>Se ha argumentado que los gatos del Paseo representan una amenaza ecológica (¿y qué de la</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>amenaza de los miles de gatos y perros, con y sin guardianes, en áreas con mayor diversidad que las iguanas, ratas y palomas en el Paseo?); que son una amenaza a la salud pública (¿dónde están los reportes de casos de enfermedades que puedan ser directamente vinculados a los gatos del Paseo?); los malos olores causados por excrementos (¿se refieren a los excrementos humanos, toallas sanitarias usadas y otros desechos de humanos que con frecuencia son encontrados allí?) o suciedad (noten que quienes le dan el mantenimiento al área son empleados por la Compañía de Turismo, cuya dirección no sólo no se queja, sino que ha ofrecido dar mayor apoyo de ser necesario). A pesar de que estos argumentos carecen de evidencias sólidas, asumamos por un momento que son válidos. ¿Es la remoción de los gatos la solución a estos problemas? Para responder esa pregunta, debe entenderse que la colonia en el área es una que lleva demasiados años allí establecida; que los gatos seleccionaron el área como una en la que pueden prosperar. Tanto las condiciones comerciales de todo VSJ como la crisis de animales abandonados o no controlados en todo Puerto Rico harán imposible que no se establezca —me atrevo a apostar que en tiempo muy breve— nuevamente, otra colonia. Esta vez, sin embargo, no habrá la disposición de dedicar recursos privados a controlarlos sabiendo que serán removidos y será preferible dedicar esos recursos a otras causas. No hacemos estos argumentos de marea ignorante; además de nuestra experiencia siendo testigos de cómo los gatos controlan su territorio, también nos educamos con los estudios y publicaciones en el tema. Controlar los gatos del área con recogido no es una tarea de un evento único: requerirá la remoción constante de aquellos que, viendo las oportunidades dejadas por los anteriores, intentarán establecerse. Este nuevo establecimiento será favorecido por la abundancia de desechos de comida humana en las áreas, la reproducción de los gatos de los residentes y aquellos abandonados, y la ausencia de servicios de esterilización.</p> <p>Pero, más allá de los argumentos científicos, técnicos y los hechos, la remoción de los gatos del Paseo constituye una bofetada a la comunidad de rescatistas, organizados e independientes, que trabajan incesantemente y sufren a diario pérdidas, a pesar de tantos esfuerzos. Hay que pasar un día, solo un día, trabajando como voluntario de alguna organización que trata de mejorar las condiciones de tantos animales sin hogar y enfrentar cuanto obstáculo hay que enfrentar para sacar sólo uno hacia adelante, para entender cómo esta propuesta de remoción desmoraliza toda una comunidad. Save A Gato es el TNR más grande en Puerto Rico; de ésta propuesta llevarse a cabo, tendrá efectos devastadores en el resto de los TNRs, pues creará una onda que salpicará, impactará otros esfuerzos.</p> <p>Y entonces, ¿qué proponemos? Pues, ¿qué tal si Parque Nacionales dedica los recursos que tiene planificados al recogido, a esfuerzos humanos de control? Servicios efectivos de vigilancia para prevenir el abandono, campañas de esterilización y vacunación, campañas educativas, recursos humanos ayudando a atrapando para esterilizar, equipo que permita la creación de estaciones de alimentación más fáciles de mantener y limpiar, todos esos son mecanismos con los que ambas partes pueden colaborar. Más aún, ¿qué tal si Parques Nacionales usa sus recursos para lograr que el municipio de San Juan apoye los esfuerzos de esterilización y vacunación? Después de todo, a Paseo llegan gatos de otras áreas fuera de la jurisdicción de NPS; la postura gubernamental de ignorar el problema y delegarlo a la buena voluntad de ciudadanos privados y organizaciones sin fines de lucro es igualmente responsable de la situación.</p> <p>Cordialmente,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2216	<p>The cats of old san juan are iconic and loved. If you remove them theREAL pest populations (rats!) with form. People love these cats who are very well taken care of.</p> <p>Not only are they taken care of but they are actually a tourist attraction, enticing tourists to explore the streets of old san juan.</p> <p>Getting rid of the cats would be cruel and unnecessary and cause a massive disruption of the ecosystem</p>
2217	<p>Cats are therapeutics, they are lovely and we are trying to give them opportunity to live same as everyone. PR is a small island with a big heart so we all can live in peace together.</p>
2218	<p>Please get rid of the cats... Afea el paseo y huele muy mal... Las personas que se quejan de seguro no viven en San Juan ...Gracias.</p>
2219	<p>Dear Sir or Ma'am, for nearly 20 years, the Save a Gato organization has fed cats on the NPS properties in PR, spayed and neutered them, and provided veterinary care. They've been able to do this thanks to the help and financial support from the community and from many tourists, who've become allies over the years. These cats need help and the volunteers at Save a Gato have committed their lives to caring for cats that have been thrown away by society. Please reconsider allowing them to continue the program and continuing to care for the cats in this historic colony. It would be a shame not to see the kitties when I visit the Island. Thank you,</p>
2220	<p>To whom may Interest,</p> <p>As a Citizen of Puerto Rico, Resident of San Juan, former Federal Employee, also Former Volunteer @ Save a Gato, Independent Cat Rescuer and Rehabilitator, and Educator for the Conservation of Flora and Fauna. I will try to put into words advice on how this issue can be resolved with the best interest of all the parties involved, and redirecting the responsibilities to all the entities that should be held accountable.</p> <p>As Mentioned in the Public NewsLetter for the Cats of Old San Juan,</p> <p>I agree with some of the propositions, and will list mine as well that might overlap information already given.</p> <p>The Government of Puerto Rico should address this issue as pertaining and not limited to different agencies involved with Animal Rights, Health and Sanitation, Conservation of Flora and Fauna, and Preservation of historic places.</p> <p>The Government of Puerto Rico should allocate a different location, with more space, and donate this [X] structure (closed public schools) to the Organization, in Which all the Cats from the park can have sanctuary while they wait to be adopted or become a permanent resident of this new location if they are not adoptable.</p> <p>The Building in Old San Juan should remain as a visitor and education center, and coordination office for the management of stray cats, with a very limited inside stations for cats waiting to be adopted also.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>The Government of Puerto Rico should use assets specifically designed to try and prevent dumping of cats in the area, and prosecute those who do.</p> <p>The National Park Service should use the same Save a Gato and its Volunteers organization as the ones to remove the cats from the area, as they are the ones with the knowledge with the colony and the needs of each cat, and with the points mentioned above, they will have a new place to exist and be safe. The funds that would have been allocated for a private company for the removal of the cats, should be donated to this organization, to provide the funds needed for this new phase and ensure the wellbeing of the cats in a space of one year, after That the organization should be able to operate solely with the donations of the people, and the help of local government of puerto rico agencies.</p> <p>But the most essential point in the plan should be the education of the people of Puerto Rico, and the Visitors. In How Cats are Domestic animals, that should NOT be on the streets, how that affects the wellbeing and life of cats, how it affects the Flora and Fauna of Puerto Rico, and the Sanitary conditions for the people that should be able to enjoy outdoor activities, without the worry of getting sick, and how all of that affects the job of preserving the Historic places and attracting tourism.</p> <p>In Short;</p> <p>Government of Puerto Rico:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designate a Building ex: (one of the closed schools) as a Sanctuary for the Organization to not only deal with the issue of the National Park Cats of Old San Juan, but for all the cats in need of shelter in PR. - Creation/Reorganization of a Multiagency Enforcers of the Animal and Conservation Laws (Police/Dept of Natural Resources) - Allocate Funds for Spay/Neuter programs within the Rescue Organization and Local Shelters - Educate the General Population consistently, Tv Ads, through volunteers of Organizations and Government Multiagency, with Information posted in every Municipalities Government Agencies. <p>National Parks Services;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fund the capture, allocation and furnishing (traps, enclosures, food, vet care, etc.) of the Cats of the National Park (est.200) to new shelter, DIRECTLY thru the Save A Gato Organization NOT an outside contractor for the duration of the deed or and not more than a Year. - Allow the Organization on the current building to operate and be open for educational purposes and redirect to the appropriate agencies the issues that visitors may bring. With a Specific Indoor Area for cats that are ready for adoption, with a complete security system that would ensure the dumping of new cats is deterred or easily prosecuted. <p>It is Important to Recognize that both Entities The National Parks Service and Save a Gato have done in their best of their abilities a great effort to Preserve the Cats and their life, let's continue this effort hand in hand with another plan of action that benefits The Cats of Old San Juan!</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2221	<p>DE ACUERDO CON ELIMINAR TODOS LOS GATOS DE ESA arquitectura de la humanidad tanto del morro como de la ciudad historica el viejo san juan. LA peste, la suciedad, el mal olor y repulsiva peste de los escrementos de esos gatos desluce la ciudad y el paseo . no hay quien viva o disfrute ese paseo hasta com mascarilla apesta . no hay otra palabra : PESTE INSOPORTABLE por doquier. he viajado y en ninguna ciudad eh sentido esa peste a mierda de gato que hasta en la ropa y los carros penetra.</p> <p>el morro y la ciudad del viejo san juan libre de gatos, pa que huela y vengan turistas a disfrutar apreciar y oler el mar. no mierda de gatos</p> <p>gracias por resolver este problema de salud ambiental: NATIONAL PARK SERVICES</p>
2222	<p>Estoy de acuerdo con el recogido de los gatos realengos en los monumentos históricos, parques históricos y viejo San Juan en general. Estos gatos traen pestilencia, contaminación al agua y espacio, placas como ratas, cucarachas y moscas. En adición, al mal olor por los desechos. Ellos no representan belleza sino desagrado en esas áreas. Me gustan las mascotas, incluso he adoptado. Pero la cantidad de gagos es excesiva. Su alimentación costosa y la limpieza de las áreas. Todo esto conlleva un costo excesivo para cualquier organización, en adición a la limpieza de las áreas con detergentes y plaguicidas.</p>
2223	<p>The fed should partner with the nonprofit protecting the cats assisting the community with funding. There must be a way to solve the problem in association with the residents.</p>
2224	<p>Visiting the independent and loveable cats in Old San Juan was a highlight of my travels to Puerto Rico. I can't imagine the park without visiting some of our favorite cats - yes we named them and returned multiple times to visit. My partner lived in Rincon, PR and we adopted a cat to bring back to the mainland. The cats are well cared for and beloved by locals and tourists alike. It would be a travesty to rid this area of the well adjusted cats. I would feel differently about NPS for taking this measure to remove the cats. This is a problem that cannot be *fixed* by removing the cats. It's my top reason for visiting this tourist attraction and loved every second in the presence of these sweet kitties.</p>
2225	<p>La No Acción es la acción correcta.</p> <p>Que el Servicio Nacional de Parques permita que Save a Gato continúe con las siguientes acciones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mantener estaciones de alimentación para los gatos a lo largo del Paseo y trabajar con el Servicio Nacional de Parques para reducir las estaciones de alimentación • Atrapar, esterilizar/castrar, marcar (punta de oreja) a los gatos una vez alterados • Remover gatos sin marcar del parque • Realizar encuestas trimestrales de población • Conservar el acceso al Paseo para las acciones anteriores <p>Gracias.</p>
2226	<p>Esos gatos son parte de nuestro viejo san juan, no hacen daño a nadie y son seres vivos que nosotros sanbjuaneros los alimentamos. No sean crueles y mejor preparen un area para ellos o hagan una campaña de adopción.</p>
2227	<p>The cat colony in old San Juan is the reason I come to visit. It is a fun treat to visit all of the cats that live there and are taken care of. Getting rid of the colony would change the</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	landscape of that area and be disappointing to see. Those cats have been there for years and I don't think it is right to remove them from their homes.
2228	OMG...leave that colony alone and the money that it is going to be used, use it to nudered the cats.
2229	I think this plan is atrocious as well as insensitive and inconsiderate. Animals are dependant on us for their care and survival because we, as a race, have domesticated them. It is our duty to protect them and help them. Instead of just choosing the easiest and most horrible route out, another option could be actually helping the organizations which have been trying hard to care for these animals and have dedicated themselves for YEARS to tend to them. It is absolutely heartless to just think of killing and washing your hands and act like the problem is done and solved, you didnt even try to fix it or help them! Its an injustice also, considering the fact that the power balance here is clear. Give them a chance and actually help them, killing is not helping anything.
2230	The cats are a wonderful thing to see. I am sure they keep the rat population down too. Free roaming TNR (trap/neuter/return) is much better than euthanasia, kept at a shelter in cages or allowed to roam without being neutered. People are the problem, not the cats. If people wouldn't dump new cats, the population would not increase. Maybe try to educate people. Start in elementary school and continue to educate through the grades so when they are adults, their thought process about animals might be different than their parents. Save a gato organization has done a great thing with the situation. Please do not remove the cats.
2231	I worked for the Federal Government as an Attorney for 26 years representing several agencies including the Park Service,specifically El Morro. I was in charge of environmental cases. As a private citizen I walk Paseo de El Morro every weekend and know and support Save A Gato and their work in Old San Juan. I know that you are aware that all of the cats at Paseo are neutered and spayed and do not represent a danger to the community or tourists that I often see taking photos of the cats. Some even adopt cats. Several years ago I remember that you had Rangers stationed a the entrance of Paseo. Now you have a car running the are that BTW some times they do not take precautions to avoid hitting a cat and do nothing when cyclists enter the area running with total disrespect for the walking people. Respectfully I suggest to get rid of the car and place the guards at the entrance that way inescropolous people will not abandon cats there for SAG to take car and also avoid the possibilty of a cyclist hit a pedestrian. Thanks.
2232	As a National Parks Federation you must believe and Respect the life of every single organism in those that you manage. Our cats are history and form part of the every life. In Old San Juan they paly a Mayor Role by providing a stable restriction on infestations like rats and other animals that may cause a harm to your parks and also the community. They are very important in these and many more. This cats are not reproducing they are managed by Save a Sato in being TNR process which benefits this community. They do not depend on any type of economic base from you. They are well maintained and cared by this organization and the locals. Please reconsider something that does not affect you in anyway and on the contrary helps you in a lot of maybe that you may not consider or even thought about until the communities comments.
2233	LET THE CATS STAY ITS THEIR HOME FIRST..... get rid of the corrupt government that want to destroy the country

Corr ID	Correspondence
2234	Please save the kittys..They are a big part of the history of San Juan..We come to puerto Rico once a year and its one of our favorite stops .To save a Gato..we have brought back 3 kittys so far..please save the kittys
2235	Please support the wild cat community in Old San Juan, rather than destroy it. Those cats are an integral part of my memories of the Paseo; removing them would be like removing the bison from Yellowstone. Any difficulties the presence of the cats present to park rangers could be mitigated by working *with* groups like Save a Gato, rather than fighting them.
2236	<p>En paises como Turkia, Egipto tienen una gran poblacion de gatos! En Turkia el gobierno les tiene comederos y bebederos, los castran y esterulizan, inclusive les pinen una numeracion! Paises cn monumentos historicos igual y tienen muy bien cobtrolado esta situacion. Porque PR no puede ser igual??? Por que debemos erradicarlos cmo si fuera uba plaga??? Las colonias ayudan a erradicar ratas y ratones, son parte de un ecosistema! Remover a donde?? La colonia esta controlada por voluntaruos. Si se remueven a otro lugar seria empezar d cero en rl otro lugar y San Juan volveria a llenarse de gatos, cq creenme que volveran a llegar xq hay sobrepoblacion animal! Estos llegarian sin castrar ni vacunados osea que los voluntarios no darian a basto potque tendrian que controlar ambas cosas y eso es imposible! Entonces, es mejor mantener esta que tuene un sistema de control y save a gato tuene control de todo y cada uno d los gatos en esta colonia! Q ponersr a inventar para removerlos, bajo q condiciones???? Por que es un gato no importa??? Es un ser viviente, no oueden disponer de ellos como si fueran nada!</p> <p>Dejen el control como esta y el municipio y el gobierno ayudar economicamente a esta organizacion para q continue el control y mejore el mismo</p>
2237	Ese dinero que van a gastar para remover a los gatos , lo pueden usar para esterilizar a los gatos que quedan y así la Colonia no sigue creciendo .
2238	<p>November 20, 2022</p> <p>Paseo Cats Sito Historico Nacional de San Juan Calle Norzagaray #501 San Juan, PR 00901</p> <p>Dear Directors of the National Park Service of Puerto Rico,</p> <p>I am a resident of Old San Juan, a professor at the University of Puerto Rico and a very concern citizen with the situation of the cats at the Paseo de la Princesa and near Fort San Felipe del Morro in Old San Juan. I attended the first meeting of the neighbors, friends, and volunteers of the Save a Gato Organizationl convened by you and held at your offices at San Cristobal fort.</p> <p>To my surprise I learned about the plan of the National Park Service to take out the cats around San Felipe del Morro and the Paseo de la Princesa. Various reasons- were stated for removing the cats and all were refuted by people with knowledge about the situation of the population of felines on the site.</p> <p>I would like to state first, that in the paper you gave us to write our comments it says on the heading "Plan de Manejo de Gatos Realengos". If you look in the dictionary the word</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>'realengos', in the Middle Ages and Modern Epoch (XVI and XVIII century) meant an extension of land that did not belong to the Church or the nobility, but to the king. People then referred to assets of the king as bienes realengos. Later, the word was related to assets without an owner. Puerto Rico</p> <p>Rico is no longer under the jurisdiction of Spain, that at the time was a monarchy, we are now a territory of the United States, a country that is a republic with a constitution that defends democracy, the life of its citizens and its natural and cultural resources. But also, National Park Service, as a government agency of the United States, affirms on the internet pages that:</p> <p>"Wilderness preservation is fundamental to the idea of deep ecology- the philosophy that recognizes an inherent worth of all living beings, regardless of their instrumental utility to human needs" .2</p> <p>If the cats of the Paseo de la Princesa and near the wall of the Fort San Felipe del Morro are 'realengos' then the wolverine and the lynx and other animals that your internet page mentions regarding Yellowstone Park are also 'realengos'. The following are the animals live in Yellowstone Park according to your page on the internet:</p> <p>"Wolverine and lynx, which require large expanses of undisturbed habitat, live here. Seven native ungulate species-elk, mule deer, bison, moose, bighorn sheep, pronghorn, and white-tailed deer-live here. Nonnative mountain goats have colonized northern portions of the park" .3</p> <p>Cats near the Paseo de la Princesa and near the fort of San Felipe del Morro are living beings. Living beings at the sites entrusted to you must be defended. The main issue here is an ethical one not a functional one. We must be united in safeguarding the life of these beings that cause no harm to anyone and to the contrary attract tourists from every corner of the world because they are considered part of the patrimony of our country and of the site you protect. They are part of the cultural and natural patrimony of our country.</p> <p>You also state in your page on the internet that:</p> <p>"The Act states that the aims of National Parks are to: conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area. promote sustainable use of the natural resources of the area. promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public".4</p> <p>It would be in keeping with the National Park Service's Act to promote the enjoyment of citizens of this island and of visitors and tourists with the special qualities that the natural resources of the area near the wall of this ancient city have. As a matter of fact, Old San Juan is celebrating its 500's birthday. Long before the United States became a country, San Juan was founded, and the island became an enclave of Spain. So, to be historically correct, Yellowstone Park, if you are to considered Puerto Rico a territory of the United States, is not the oldest national park, but it is the 'park' in Old San Juan.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>I hope that when making the decision concerning the cats of Paseo de la Princesa and adjacent to the fort you keep in mind the followings that are part of what is stated in your page. I also hope you can edit number# 5 because it is not an accurate historical fact. They read as follow:</p> <p>"Integrity - We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another. Stewardship - We provide and inspire exceptional care of the places entrusted to us by the American people.</p> <p>Respect - We embrace our differences and treat each person with dignity. The National Park Service protects over 84 million acres of wild landscapes and historic sites.</p> <p>Yellowstone National Park (in Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana) is the oldest U.S. national park, founded in 1872".</p> <p>If National Park Service decides to remove the cats and 'puts them to sleep' (i.e.: killed them) from the area mentioned above, then the agency has failed to ensure all that it says do, including safeguarding and promoting the well-being of the cats that have colonized the area making it their home as the goats have done in Yellowstone Park.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>CC.;</p> <p>National Park Service 1849 C Street NW Washington, DC 20240</p> <p>Charles F. 'Chuck" Sams III, Director Shawn Benge, Deputy Director, Operations Lena McDowall, Deputy Director, Management and Administration Mike Reynolds, Deputy Director, Congressional and External Relations Susan Farinelli, Chief of Staff Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles, Chief of Public Affairs and Chief Spokesperson Justin Unger, Associate Director, Business Services Matthew Montano, Associate Director, Information Resources (Chief Information Officer) Jim Wilson, Assistant Director, Communications Joy Beasley, Associate Director, Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science Tom Medema, Associate Director, Interpretation, Education, and Volunteers Chuck Hunt, Acting Assistant Director, Legislative and Congressional Affairs Dorothy FireCloud, Assistant to the Director for Native American Affairs Ray Sauvajot, Associate Director, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science Mike Caldwell, Associate Director, Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands David Szymanski, Acting Associate Director, Partnerships and Civic Engagement Jennifer Flynn, Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection Rita Moss, Associate Director, Workforce and Inclusion</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>1 Save a Gato is a nonprofit organization that has helped for years neutering, giving shots and other medications to the cats in the area. They feed the cats every day and clean the spaces where the animals are. They have sites in the internet.</p> <p>2 National Park Service: <a href="https://www.google.com/search?q=national+park+service,+philosophy&client=safari&channel=macbm&biw=1083&bih=733&sxsrf=ALiCzsbPmekKfzy nKKxlXnN n eG i2bs,8Q%3A 1668958886898&el=pkp6V6u IN tKSwbkP8tuKsAM&og=National+Park+Service+Philosophy&gclid=Cgxnfc3Mtd216LXNlcnAOARgAMgclABCABBANIVlgUIABCgAZIFCAAQhgMyBQgAEIVDMgUIA8CGAzoECC4QJzoECCMQJzoFCAAQkQ16DgguEIAEELEDEIMBENQCOhEILhCABBCCXAxCDARDHARDRAzoLCC4QpAQQsQMgE6CwgAEIAEELEDEJMBogcll1DUAhBDOgQIABBDogolLhDIIARDRAxBDOgOILhDHARDRAxDUAhBDOhYllhCABBCHAhCl<AxCDARDHARDRAxAUOgclABCxAXBDOgQILhBDOgOIL1CxAxDHARDRAxBDOgclABDJAXBDOg41LhCXAxDHARDRAxCRAjoFCAAOgAQ6CwgAEIAEELEOEMkDOgOIAABCABBCHAhCxAXAUOhMILhCABBCHAhCxAXDHARDRAxAUOhAILhCABBCCxAXOHARDRAxAKOgolABCABBCCxAXAKOgclABCABBKOGglABCABBCCxAZoLCC4QgAQQA16DgguEIAEEMcBEK8BENQCOgslhCABBCHAhCvAToGCMQf-hAeSgQIQRgASgQIRhgAUABYs4sBVP2eAWgBcA84AIAB2wGIAbwkkEGMC4yOC4ymAEAoAE8wAEB&scellent=gws-wiz-serp">https://www.google.com/search?q=national+park+service,+philosophy&client=safari&channel=macbm&biw=1083&bih=733&sxsrf=ALiCzsbPmekKfzy nKKxlXnN n eG i2bs,8Q%3A 1668958886898&el=pkp6V6u IN tKSwbkP8tuKsAM&og=National+Park+Service+Philosophy&gclid=Cgxnfc3Mtd216LXNlcnAOARgAMgclABCABBANIVlgUIABCgAZIFCAAQhgMyBQgAEIVDMgUIA8CGAzoECC4QJzoECCMQJzoFCAAQkQ16DgguEIAEELEDEIMBENQCOhEILhCABBCCXAxCDARDHARDRAzoLCC4QpAQQsQMgE6CwgAEIAEELEDEJMBogcll1DUAhBDOgQIABBDogolLhDIIARDRAxBDOgOILhDHARDRAxDUAhBDOhYllhCABBCHAhCl<AxCDARDHARDRAxAUOgclABCxAXBDOgQILhBDOgOIL1CxAxDHARDRAxBDOgclABDJAXBDOg41LhCXAxDHARDRAxCRAjoFCAAOgAQ6CwgAEIAEELEOEMkDOgOIAABCABBCHAhCxAXAUOhMILhCABBCHAhCxAXDHARDRAxAUOhAILhCABBCCxAXOHARDRAxAKOgolABCABBCCxAXAKOgclABCABBKOGglABCABBCCxAZoLCC4QgAQQA16DgguEIAEEMcBEK8BENQCOgslhCABBCHAhCvAToGCMQf-hAeSgQIQRgASgQIRhgAUABYs4sBVP2eAWgBcA84AIAB2wGIAbwkkEGMC4yOC4ymAEAoAE8wAEB&scellent=gws-wiz-serp (Retrieved : November 20, 2022, 12:27p.m.)</p> <p>3 Yellowstone Park. <a href="https://www.google.com/search?q=wild+life+in+Yellowstone&client=safari&channel=macbm&sxsrf=-ALiCzsb7Q3AxO0f2SgWB 7 AZlfer9J Dln Mg.3/4A1668962966666&source=hp&ei=I lp6Y6a0J pKEwbkP6Lmi- -AE&ifsig=AJ i K0e8AAAAA Y3popu H uwk7QCa 1 Fh MWwK02kCis9n BmY & ved=0a h U l<Ewi m 15 PGm 737 Ah USQiABH eicCB8Q4d U DCBI &u act=S&oq=wid,, li f e+in+ Yellowstone&gclid=Cgdnd3M td216EAMy BwgAEIAEEAoyBwgAEIAEEAoyBwgAEIAEEAoyBwgAEIAEEAoyBggAEBYQH!ICA AQFhAeAoyBggAEBYQHj!CAAQFhAeAoyBQgAEIYDMgUIABCgAZoHCCMQ6gl QJ20ECCMQJzoFCAAQkQ16CwgAEIAEELEDEIMBOhEILhCABBCCXAxCDARDHARDRA20LCC4QgAQQf).MQgwE6Cagu E LE DEIM BOgsl LhCDARCxAXCABDoLCAAQgAQQsQM6Cwgu ELE DE IM BENQCOgglLhCABBCCxAZoOCC4QgAQQsQMgE6CwguEQ1A16BQguEIAEOhAILhCABBCH AhDHARCvARAUOgllhCDARCxAZoFCAAQgAQ6DgguEIAEEMcBEI<8BENQCOgsl lhClBBCxAXD UAjolCAAQsQMgE6 Cwgu EIAE E McBEK8 BOhA I Lh Cv ARD H ARCH Ah CAB BAU Oh Al Lh CDA RCv A RD HARCxAXAKOgolABCABBCHAhAUOgslLhDUAhCxAXCABDoKCAAQFhAeEA8QCID GF11XamDhbmgbCAB4AIABjQKIAcghkgEHMC4xNC4,<MJgBAKABAABCg&scellent=gws-wiz">https://www.google.com/search?q=wild+life+in+Yellowstone&client=safari&channel=macbm&sxsrf=-ALiCzsb7Q3AxO0f2SgWB 7 AZlfer9J Dln Mg.3/4A1668962966666&source=hp&ei=I lp6Y6a0J pKEwbkP6Lmi- -AE&ifsig=AJ i K0e8AAAAA Y3popu H uwk7QCa 1 Fh MWwK02kCis9n BmY & ved=0a h U l<Ewi m 15 PGm 737 Ah USQiABH eicCB8Q4d U DCBI &u act=S&oq=wid,, li f e+in+ Yellowstone&gclid=Cgdnd3M td216EAMy BwgAEIAEEAoyBwgAEIAEEAoyBwgAEIAEEAoyBwgAEIAEEAoyBggAEBYQH!ICA AQFhAeAoyBggAEBYQHj!CAAQFhAeAoyBQgAEIYDMgUIABCgAZoHCCMQ6gl QJ20ECCMQJzoFCAAQkQ16CwgAEIAEELEDEIMBOhEILhCABBCCXAxCDARDHARDRA20LCC4QgAQQf).MQgwE6Cagu E LE DEIM BOgsl LhCDARCxAXCABDoLCAAQgAQQsQM6Cwgu ELE DE IM BENQCOgglLhCABBCCxAZoOCC4QgAQQsQMgE6CwguEQ1A16BQguEIAEOhAILhCABBCH AhDHARCvARAUOgllhCDARCxAZoFCAAQgAQ6DgguEIAEEMcBEI<8BENQCOgsl lhClBBCxAXD UAjolCAAQsQMgE6 Cwgu EIAE E McBEK8 BOhA I Lh Cv ARD H ARCH Ah CAB BAU Oh Al Lh CDA RCv A RD HARCxAXAKOgolABCABBCHAhAUOgslLhDUAhCxAXCABDoKCAAQFhAeEA8QCID GF11XamDhbmgbCAB4AIABjQKIAcghkgEHMC4xNC4,<MJgBAKABAABCg&scellent=gws-wiz(Retrieved: November 20, 2022, 1:28p.m.)</p> <p>4 National Park Service. Op. cit.</p>
2239	<p>Im disagree with the project to remove the old san juan Cats. You are going to affect the environment, this would bring new cats and make a new community. Also would rise the rats in the old san juan. I think save a gato have always handled the situation in an organized and</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	clean manner. There are other cleaning problems that should be addressed that are truly a priority, such as garbage and the limited availability of garbage cans. Seek help for associations like Save a Gato and leave the cats of San Juan alone!
2240	Leave t he cat's alone. They are a joy to see and fixed well taken care of. If you want to do something constructive. CLOSE that disgraceful, disgusting Zoo..!!!!
2241	I am writing to support the " No Action" option for cat management in San Juan. I visited the site earlier this year and was very pleased to discover the cats; they were a highlight of my visit and the subject of most of my photos there. I looked at the feeding stations and took notes as I felt they could offer good suggestions to one of our local groups in Ohio. Many of the cats were visible but did not cause a disturbance to visitors; I did not notice any odor or contamination from them. Cats, especially when spayed or castrated, are much less likely to cause issues with droppings than other species. During my visit I was reminded of the cats in Rome which are also considered a tourist attraction, and merchandise featuring them is sold there. This contradicts the thought that cats are a detriment to historical sites in the eyes of the public. I also took note of other visitors' exclamations of joy - adults and children alike - at seeing the cats. They are one of the main reasons I have scheduled a return visit next month with my son, as he will enjoy seeing them and cats are always a memorable part of a location for him during our travels. I know that Save a Gato has worked hard to control the population; while other factors such as dropoffs from other persons in the area make improvement in the numbers challenging, their contributions are valuable - to offer an analogy, as a hunter here in the CONUS, I know that deer hunting is a critical management tool even as the whitetail population expands, and increases tourism revenue as I suspect the cats might. From what I have seen, Save a Gato's efforts are making a big difference, and allow the colony to be an asset to the site that benefits both humans and animals.
2242	Cuando visite PR por varios meses, estuve trabajando de voluntaria en Save A Gato y continuo colaborando cuando puedo a la distancia. RECHAZAMOS internacionalmente la medida que los EEUU pretende arremeter contra los gatos del paseo. Si les interesa reducir la poblacion felina, deben dar subsidio para TNR (trap-neuter-release) de manera que SAVE A GATO pueda continuar e intensificar su tarea de corazon! NO A LA MATANZA Y MOVIMIENTO DE LOS GATOS
2243	Visitors and citizens of the island have grown a lot of love for the cats of San Juan, especially those taken care of by the Save a Gato organization. It's understandable why a proposal to get rid of the cats makes people upset, but isn't that the point of the organization? To get rid of wild cats on the street? I think people don't understand how invasive cats are and how much they impact our native species, such as birds. Cats are responsible for the death of over 1 million birds a year, not to mention the millions of birds that die from so many other human threats. While the Trap-Neuter-Release strategy seems to work in the short-term, I think we need to start looking for more long-term solutions that will not endanger biodiversity. I'm not really sure removing them from the site will do much. What is to guarantee that they won't come back? And won't they just populate somewhere else, further endangering native wildlife and public health? And what are the consequences of shutting down Save a Gato, an organization that seem to be one of the very few putting in the work to control the cat population in Puerto Rico?
2244	You must trap as many cats as possible for the next two months and neuter them to avoid reproduction if you decide to set them free again. Once the initial period is over capture as many as you can and sacrifice them.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Cats in the area are a nuisance and should be eliminated .They have no positive value and detract from the appearance and cleanliness of the surroundings.
2245	<p>Como amante de los animales y máximo aún de felinos no son ellos los q pueden pagar las consecuencias de personas irresponsables q no fomentan ni castrar o esterilizar para evitar estas situaciones. Mi propuesta sería q desde una decisión salubrista podamos ayudar a estos indefensos.</p> <p>Sugiero q el colegio de veterinarios establezca un fondo para crear un lugar donde podamos removerlos y reubicarlos de manera temporera para buscar hogares q los adopten en el proceso. El colegio de veterinarios q es quien vela por el bienestar de estos indefensos pudiera identificar algún lugar para q temporeramente puedan estar protegidos y cuidados.</p>
2246	Por favor no los remuevan a ellos se les lleva comida y mantienen el area libre de ratones y bastante tienen con el sufrimiento de no tener un hogar cálido donde vivir 🙏🙏🙏
2247	I always go to watch wild cats, it's one of the best parts of going to San Juan and "El Morro". Please, leave them alone.
2248	La solución no es matar los gatos. Van a seguir llegando, por lo cual van a gastar mucho dinero, sin resultado y con crueldad extrema. Apoyen el programa de TNR de Save a Gato, Es un uso efectivo de los fondos, y es una solución mas humana y a largo plazo.
2249	Mi sugerencia es que conviertan el Paseo donde estan los gatos en un Santuario. No se debe sacar esta colonia de gatos que ya están estelizados. También sugiero que el Municipio aporte monetariamente mensualmente a Save a Gato para que puedan seguir haciendo su labor.
2250	I come to OSJ for the cats! Do not get rid of them!
2251	We have visited San Juan several times and the highlight of every single trip has been to see the cats. We even adopted one We saw on two different trips. Save A Gato is doing what they can but residents of San Juan must step up as well to ensure they aren't adding to the cat population by dropping off their unwanted pets with the colonies. More funds need to be provided to allow them to spay and neuter them all.
2252	<p>Les felicito por tomar en consideración dicha propuesta. Soy un residente de Puerto Rico, orgulloso de la gran historia nuestra. En el 2019, visité dicha área y me sentí avergonzado por la peste nauseabunda a estiercol y orin, frustrado de no poder hacer más, ya que un lugar con un paisaje hermoso y con tanta historia, se encontrara en pésimas condiciones.</p> <p>Desde entonces no he vuelto, cohibido de visitar y disfrutar tan importante lugar. Respaldo totalmente la propuesta de remover los gatos a un área fuera de las zonas turísticas, en especial históricas. Deja mucho que decir en aquellos que nos visitan, dejando una impresión negativa de lo que somos.</p>
2253	Please leave the cats alone!!! they cause no harm. Every time i visit PR i go see the cats!! that's the primary reason why i go to PR. Have some compassion and don't be an evil pos harming innocent animals. PLEASEEEEEEEEE!! shame on you if you do anything bad to these poor cats!
2254	Leave those cats alone, they do no harm. The only hazard to the historic monuments and National Park Service assets in San Juan are humans that constantly vandalize those structures by urinating, leaving trash and scraping & painting walls. The cats play an important role in the community: they hunt down rats and other pests! Leave them live in peace there. What you should do instead is cooperate with organizations like Save a Gato, to help control the cat's population by spaying, neutering, catch and release. that's the key. Would you get rid and euthanize human populations that harm the National Park Service assets?? No, right? Well respect the lives of other creatures!!

Corr ID	Correspondence
2255	<p>Primero los gatos de el morro siempre han vivido allí y son un atractivo turístico para la ciudad a los turistas les gusta visitarlos y compartir comida con ellos he sido testigo de eso también hay organizaciones que se encargan de atender las necesidades de estos gatos</p> <p>Propuesta #1 asignen fondos y elijan personas para castrar y esterilizar y vacunar a los gatos.</p> <p>Propuesta #2 hagan un parque para los gatos que se cobre la entrada y sea algo familiar así con ese dinero pueden costear todo lo necesario para poder mantenerlos allí.</p> <p>Pueden usarlo de trabajo comunitario para personas que necesitan hacerlo o estén obligados por ley .</p>
2256	<p>Buenos días entiendo el problema de sobrepoblación de los gatos. El matarlos no es la solución pues las personas seguirán llevando . Creo que se debe seguir con la campaña de esterilización y castración. Monitorear los gatos con sensores en los collares , seguir alimentando sin afectar la estética de San Juan . Crear incentivo a los dueños de gatos para que esterilicen sus mascotas ya sea con descuento en la operación u otro beneficio sea contributivo</p>
2257	<p>Los gatos son depredadores que llevan años allí (están habituados) y NO existe forma que no sea adoptarlos o esterilizarlos en masa de sacarlos de allí sin que resulte en violencia/sufrimiento para ellos.</p>
2258	<p>I am writing to support the "No Action" option for cat management in San Juan. I visited the site earlier this year and was very pleased to discover the cats; they were a highlight of my visit and the subject of most of my photos there. I looked at the feeding stations and took notes as I felt they could offer good suggestions to one of our local groups in Ohio. Many of the cats were visible but did not cause a disturbance to visitors; I did not notice any odor or contamination from them. Cats, especially when spayed or castrated, are much less likely to cause issues with droppings than other species. During my visit I was reminded of the cats in Rome which are also considered a tourist attraction, and merchandise featuring them is sold there. This contradicts the thought that cats are a detriment to historical sites in the eyes of the public. I also took note of other visitors' exclamations of joy - adults and children alike - at seeing the cats. They are one of the main reasons I have scheduled a return visit next month with my son, as he will enjoy seeing them and cats are always a memorable part of a location for him during our travels. I know that Save a Gato has worked hard to control the population; while other factors such as dropoffs from other persons in the area make improvement in the numbers challenging, their contributions are valuable. To offer an analogy, as a hunter here in the CONUS, I know that deer hunting is a critical management tool even as the whitetail population expands, and increases tourism revenue as I suspect the cats might. From what I have seen, Save a Gato's efforts are making a big difference, and allow the colony to be an asset to the site that benefits both humans and animals."</p>
2259	<p>Tenemos que ser una Sociedad compasiva con los animales e inculcarle valores a nuestros hijos.</p> <p>Deshacerse de unos animales que los consideran como plagas nos deja muy mal ante nuestra Sociedad. Tenemos que agradecer a todas las criaturas que Dios creó y aprender a convivir en armonía y respeto mutuo. Los Gatos son exterminadores por excelencia, ellos no son las plagas; nos ayudan a combatirlas.</p> <p>Por años organizaciones se han encargado de mantener los Gatos en S.J. en buen estado, vacunados y esterilizados, labor que el gobierno no ha puesto ni un dedo. No es aceptable el que el gobierno ahora quiera tirar por la borda todo ese sacrificio que voluntarios han hecho. Los Buenos somos más y no lo vamos a permitir.</p> <p>Gracias</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2260	<p>Don't remove the cats! They are a great attraction that I enjoy on my visits! Manage them sustainably and responsibly and let them be a charming addition to the park!</p> <p>TNR should continue to be the strategy for management. I would also advocate additional rescues be established for surrendered pets outside of old SJ to prevent the addition of abandoned cats to the existing colony.</p> <p>The cats are living creatures and absolutely under no circumstances should a healthy cat be trapped and euthanized. Rehoming the cats may prove to be unsustainable, thus the TNR program must be the focus to be good stewards of our world to manage a problem created by humans in the first place.</p>
2261	<p>Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the feline infestation on, and around, the grounds of El Paseo del Morro. This is really a serious nuisance that must be brought under control.</p> <p>I was born in Puerta de Tierra and used to go there regularly to exercise. I have stopped going there, because of the stench produced by the excrements, solid and liquid, from these animals.</p> <p>I propose we follow Florida's Key West city leader's ordinance, banning people from feeding roaming chickens.</p> <p>If the organization, "Save a Gato", love, and really want to help these animals so much, let them capture, and keep them in a sanctuary of their own, and offer them for adoption, all at their own expense.</p>
2262	<p>Los gatos no le hacen daño a nadie deben dejarlos ahí</p>
2263	<p>I would hope National Parks would find experts on TNR so they will see that it's the only effective way to deal with the cat population. Removing the cats is not a long term solution. It's not a humane solution either. If they have the money to invest to trap and kill they should collaborate with veterinarians to help the organizations that care for the cats. I have had success with the cat colonies I have worked with during the last 20 years. Many of them were so successful that they no longer exist and every once in a while are notified of a cat in the area to which we respond to immediately. TNR is effective. The stray animal situation is an island wide issue that many have dedicated their lives to helping. This is not only an issue in OSJ. National Parks could be leaders doing the right thing so the PR government will use and example to follow suit in other areas. Trapping and killing the cats will not help the situation and will bring negative press about how Puerto Rico takes care of animals.</p>
2264	<p>Los Gatos del Viejo San Juan no hacen daño a nadie. Son parte de la ciudad y mantienen el area libre de ratones. Los turistas se alegran de que Allan personas que los protegen y los cuidan</p>
2265	<p>Vuelvo y vuelvo y paso Porvla ruta y jamás podria pensar que ya no estuvieran ahí, don el atractivo mayor, don hermosos y hacen la diferencia entre las estructuras históricas y la vida. Son un complemento que jamás se debe cambiar. Pata mi perdería todo el atractivo. Sin ellos psra mi esa ruta esta muerta y jamás ni pensaría ni me interesaría visitarla y mucho menos llevar a nadie y enseñaría como algo hermoso. Seria un recuerdo de crueldad y mucha maldad.</p>
2266	<p>Save A Gato has successfully saved hundreds of cats lives through their trap, neuter and release program. Not only that, but the cat colony helps control pests in Old San Juan. If the cats are eliminated, the rats and roaches will be rampant throughout the city, with all the people that leave trash and live in unsanitary conditions there.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2267	<p>Why doesn't the NPS look to other countries and communities with a local animal residency for options? Japan has multiple tourist destinations based on animal sight seeing. There are hot springs with monkeys, a city full of deer, and a cat island. In the US there is Catalina Island where back in the 1920's, bison were brought over for a film but due to funding couldn't be taken back to the mainland so they stayed and flourished. Technically they were an invasive species but the family that owned Catalina island decided to protect them and turn them into a tourist attraction. Now you can go on Bison tours on the island.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to not only preserve the local culture and their affinity for these cats, but also monetize something that is currently not even all that publicized. You have cruise ships rolling in, if I were on a cruise ship and there was a place where I could volunteer with a local cat rescue for the day I would sign up so fast. (I did in fact get involved with Save a Gato while vacationing in Puerto Rico - I had not heard of them prior to that trip). Also the MERCH. You could be embracing the cats and making them part of the brand of el Morro. They came over with the Spanish who erected the fort so I don't understand how you can say they are culturally irrelevant.</p> <p>Maintain Save a Gato to keep the cat population down, let them do their work, FUND THEIR WORK, which would help their mission to educate the rest of the island with TNR practices and animal welfare, which would long term stop the dumping of cats in Old San Juan, which would do exactly what you're trying to do.</p> <p>Use this as an opportunity to make Old San Juan better, not (literally) kill one of the charming aspects of this great community.</p>
2268	Please do not remove the cat colony, they are import to Old San Juan, Puerto Rico.
2269	I do not agree that they take cats from that area where they have lived for a long time, they are innocent little ones who are not to blame for anything
2270	<p>When I come to the San Juan National Park, I come to see the birds, not the feral cats that live on every continent. These feral cats are slaughtering the birds, whose numbers are already dwindling because of human actions. Now the bird population is further declining because of the human action of intentionally keeping feral cats on the land! The National park is one of the best birdwatching areas, but that might soon end as the cat population will grow and more cats will predate the birds.</p> <p>Hiring a professional removal agency to remove and exclude the cats would be far superior to a bunch of ladies feeding feral cats and attracting even more feral cats by leaving large piles of cat food lying around! A professional agency that does not have an emotional investment in keeping feral cats on the land would do a better job managing the growing feral cat population.</p>
2271	Cada vez que vamos al Viejo San Juan, el área donde están los gatos, es una de las paradas obligatorias. Es un área turística y he visto cómo muchas personas se detienen a tomar fotos a los gatos. Saquen provecho a esto! No vemos que hagan daño, el área no tiene mal olor. Al ser gatos esterilizados, no presentan em problema de marcar territorio. Entiendo que hay una organización que ayuda a estos gatos. Qué les parece que en vez de buscar sacarlos, ayuden a esta organización?
2272	Se deben continuar con los gatos ya que muchas personas que visitan la ciudad de San Juan son amantes a los animales y para estos son adorables.

Corr ID	Correspondence
2273	A favor de que se mantengan los gatos en la ciudad ya que ayudan a mantener contralada la plaga de ratones y ratas en la sociedad.
2274	Los gatos deben permanecer en la ciudad por el simple hecho que San Juan es una área turística y muchos que visitan lo ven como parte y es algo agradable. El gato es una animal amado por muchos y no causa daño.
2275	No debería recoger los gatos de la ciudad debido a; que controlan plagas, y evitan la infestación de ratas. A parte de que no representan ningún problema.
2276	No deberían recoger los gatos de la ciudad, debido a; que controlan la plaga de ratas y ratones. Tampoco representan un problema a la vida cotidiana de la sociedad.
2277	I believe that cats should be kept in Old San Juan as they are a part of the community now and bring a sense of life throughout the 500 years old structure
2278	<p>I can well remember the joy that it personally gave me to open up a tin of cat food and feed some random stray cats one spoonful at a time while sitting on a park bench. The cats were quite tentative at first but they eventually showed their appreciation by bestowing upon me a few tail rubs.</p> <p>Since then I've made it a point to feed the cats whenever I travel to the Island to compete in the annual Island chess championship. It sure beats running up yet another expensive bar tab in the futile hopes of possibly meeting someone for a little conversation.</p> <p>I happen to be still grieving the loss of my companion and feeding the cats gave me comfort. The irony of it all was just how many people, both locals and tourists alike, would stop to watch the cats crowd around me. The envy was quite palpable.</p> <p>Kindly reconsider your cat removal intentions.</p>
2279	<p>This was supposed to be a sanctuary made for birds and not a sanctuary made for cats. If you're not going to remove these cats then the least you can do is STOP FEEDING THE CATS.</p> <p>I support the removal of every last feeding station in the National Park. The cats should not have been fed in the first place, if you want to get rid of an animal you should not be feeding it! This has clearly become a cat feeding hobby instead of the TNR "reduction" it was supposed to be.</p> <p>The cat population is growing because the cats have access to food all day. Cats with constant access to food will birth more kittens because the rich nutrients in cat food gives cats the necessary energy to reproduce more.</p> <p>The cat feeding stations are an appealing place for people to abandon their cats because people can see that cat food will always be available. Remove ALL the feeding stations and you won't have so many cats.</p>
2280	<p>Too many cats! There are cats everywhere! The Save A Gato TNR program is not working. TNR is inhumane to the cats since the cats are not given medical care right away. These cats are roaming freely which means if there is an injured cat it would take days to trap it and then take it to a veterinarian, all while the injured cat is still suffering! The cats also don't have any tick or flea medications, which is the reason why the cats are covered with these parasites.</p> <p>Not to mention that the cats infected with intestinal worms will poop in the feeding area</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	causing the rest of the population to become infected with worms! The birds will suffer too because the cats will kill them for fun and food! Cats enjoy ripping off the wings and legs of birds leaving them to die a horrible death filled with pain. The Save a Gato TNR program also does not have a plan on how to stop eagles from eating the cats. It won't take long before the eagles at San Juan realize that the cats are an abundant food source. This will not be fair to the cats or birds! We can and must do better! End the TNR program!
2281	I would like to express my support for "No Action" which would be to allow organizations like Save a Gato continue their work in humanely sterilizing and vaccinating the community cat population in San Juan. Removal of these cats would be a reversal of the amazing work that has already been done to care for this treasured population. They are not an invasive species, they are part of the community. TNR is the most humane and effective approach to managing free-roaming cat populations. Removing the cats and removing feeding stations is inhumane and is also a slap in the face of local residents that love and care for these animals.
2282	Desde hace años camino por el Paseo la Princesa. Nunca he tenido problemas con los gatos. En ocasiones he tocado algunos, y nunca he recibido una respuesta violenta. El lugar siempre limpio, y la comida y envases sin residuos. Es absurdo que deseen retirar los gatos. De hecho lo que he podido notar es que cada día parecen ser menos , y no más, como se alega. Los gatos son parte del Paseo Princesa, déjenlos en paz!
2283	Nosotros no estamos de acuerdo en remover los gatitos voy a explicar hace poco había una joven llorando en ese lugar y de momento un garito color rojo se le pegaba y ella llorando y hablando alto tanto fue el acercamiento del gatito que se vio obligada a pasarle la mano lo copio en las manos dejo de llorar y le pasaba mucho la mano al gatito desde entonces la joven iba todos los días a llevarle comida al gatito que lo esperaba créame ellos han salvado vidas lo que el gobierno no ha hecho . He visto las cartas de los niños felices viendo los gatito como los ancianos carmen yulin la ex alcalde de San Juan en una ocasión los recogió los vacuno y los enfermos los retiro ellos han salvado vidas y continuarán salvando vidas la ley 154 indica que nuestros animales tienen derecho a una vida digna allí no hay ratas pero habían y no se ubican en casa de nadie muchos turistas lo van haber y se ven felices viéndolo porque siempre los menos afortunados en este caso los que no pueden hablar tiene que el gobierno hacerle daño le gustaría que le mataran su perro o gato de su casa. Somos muchos recastistas que estamos molestos con la intervención incensario y preocupados que no haga una fabricación de casos como hace el gobierno. No al maltrato de animales no a la remoción de los gatito de san juan con tantos problemas sociales en Puerto Rico y tanta corrupción parece mentira que se metan con seres vivientes que no puedan hablar si lo hacen no cuenten con nuestro votos y siempre reclamaremos la injusticia la remdd nuestros gatitos por favor dedíquense a otras cosas en gobierno y dejen vivir con dignidad a unos gatito que dan vida y no muerte parece ser que esa persona odia los animales les sugiero que busquen de dios piel que mata un animal no tienen sensibilidad alguna nunca olvidaría el crimen hecho a estos pobres animales que tienen derecho a la vida no al crimen estamos sumamente molestos con este gobierno que se dedica no ayudar el pueblo sino crear más corrupción y males sociales entre ellos el crimen de unos pobres indefensos animales por favor no cometan ese crimen.
2284	Please do not remove the cats from Old San Juan! They aren't hurting anyone and in fact they help control the rat and rodent population inside the walled city. I recommend spending the money and effort it would take to destroy the animals on a more effective Trap/Neuter/Release program. Use it as an opportunity to educate people about the importance of taking care of their animals, and maybe implement adoption programs. You could make cat cafes in the city to help generate revenue for the local community and help

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>the cats get adopted. These businesses work! I own one in St. Augustine called the Witty Whisker and we have helped over 320 cats get adopted in the past 2 years. I would be happy to lend my knowledge and expertise. I have contacts in PR who could help get this going. Please do not kill these beautiful little creatures. We just need to find them good homes with loving families.</p>
2285	<p>As a visitor to San Juan National Historic Site, I am writing to urge the park to not remove the free-ranging cats that have colonized the area. These cats, while not native to the park, have become a beloved and integral part of the park's ecosystem and removing them would be a huge loss.</p> <p>I understand that the park has concerns about the effectiveness of the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program provided by Save a Gato. However, I believe that these concerns can be addressed through a combination of strategies, such as increasing the number of sterilized individuals within the population and implementing measures to prevent new cats from entering the population.</p> <p>Furthermore, TNR can still be effective in a non-isolated population, as long as the program is well-managed and the population is monitored regularly. By working with organizations like Save a Gato, the park can ensure that the TNR program is successful and that the cats are able to coexist with the park's cultural and natural resources.</p> <p>In addition to being inhumane and ineffective, removing the cats from San Juan National Historic Site would also likely draw backlash from social media. Cats are incredibly popular on platforms like Instagram, and organizations like Save a Gato, which works to protect and care for the park's cats, have thousands of followers.</p> <p>If the park were to remove the cats, it is likely that this decision would be widely criticized on social media, potentially damaging the park's reputation and drawing negative attention to its management practices. In today's digital age, it is important for organizations like the park to consider the potential impact of their actions on social media and the potential for public backlash.</p> <p>I strongly urge the park to reconsider its plan to remove the cats and instead focus on implementing humane and effective population control measures. Not only is this the right thing to do for the cats and the park's ecosystem, but it is also the best way to avoid negative attention on social media.</p>
2286	<p>Remove the cats humanely. Do not sacrifice them but they do need to be managed and removed. In a closed loop system the spay neuter plan would work. Perhaps that is an option.</p>
2287	<p>Estoy de acuerdo en que remuevan los gatos. por el bienestar de los felinos y el publico que visita el sitio historico.</p>
2288	<p>The free-ranging cats are a health hazard. Free-ranging cats are not going to be vaccinated by Save a Gato or anyone else because these cats are unowned and therefore no one's responsibility. These cats should be removed because they are a disease risk for rabies. If a free-ranging cat goes rabid and bites someone there will be no liability on Save a Gato who will, of course, claim no ownership. The risk of a rabies infection is high because Save a Gato encourages visitors to pet the cats. This in my opinion is irresponsible, and we should hold Save a Gato liable for such behavior.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2289	In New York City Mayor Bull de Blasio recognized that the only way to control the rat population was through having Colin por cats that are spayed/ neutered and vaccinated. By removing the cats you will be creating a rat population increase.
2290	<p>My recommendations are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Immediately end all cat feeding by Save a Gato and tourists. 2. Remove all of the cat feeding stations in the park. 3. Install no cat feeding signs throughout the park 4. Issue expensive fines to anyone breaking the rules.
2291	<p>Dear Sir or Madam,</p> <p>I have visited with my family the National San Juan El Morro and other structures there. The experience was outstanding. When I reed the signs about the cats project that is near the structure, I was surprised of how kind is the project to protect animals that have been abandoned and how wise is to have those cats there as is done in Europe that is being used near or in tourist buildings to control rats infestations and other plagues. The cats there pose as statues sometimes and they look so beautiful. Is an interesting place to visit and even more with the cats, their different colors and attention look. All cats showed a nice behavior, and calm. The cats are scared more of people, I noticed that they stay at good distance, and that is good no danger for humans. For the contrary some humans can be a danger for cats with their bad actions toward these animals. What I believe is the issue here is that there needs to be a better plan for the sterilization of cats. For example, where I live there are cats abandoned, or their owners have died and nobody care for them. For that reason, the neighbors, some of them at least 4 that I know take care of them giving food, but the key is the sterilization to control the population. I suggest a better plan for the sterilization. Here for example, we try to get the attention and trust of the cats and then we take them in a pet/animal cage for surgery, sterilization surgery. It might not be easy at the beginning, but every day gets easier to do such thing. If budget of the nonprofit organization is on issue for the sterilizations, I suggest then to focus on the females cats, sometimes that has been our approach: to get the females cats to the veterinary for sterilization and currently in our neighborhood we could say we are on the right path.</p> <p>Returning for the cats at the National San Juan El Morro, I can say is a different experience to see the structure surrounding by so many colorful, beautiful cats, which show a calm, and good distance from the visitors. Cats are very clean and don't like to approach strangers. Have you walk there several times continuously for several days? I suggest you do with your family it will be a nice experience and different. You can see the beautiful tourism structure and enjoy the beautiful cats playing, sleeping or just like modeling. Cats also keep the area clean of infestation of rats, cockroaches, etc which is really a major problem for national buildings/structures. Did you know that in United Kingdom, Europe they also have cats on historic buildings to avoid infestations of rats, and cockroaches. Sometimes we have a blessing and we don't see it.</p> <p>If United Kingdom, Europe, other countries... are taking advantages for having cats, you should too. Even in Turkey, every store, place have cats for the benefit of controlling infestation of animals like rats that cause so many fatal diseases, plus the rats destroy vintages artifacts, etc., and cause really a bigger problem. The root issue that is maybe causing discomfort is not mainly the cats, is that the population of cats are not being control as needed, but is some neighbors do that for their neighborhood, with so many nonprofit</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>institutions and kindness of people you can achieve that too. If you remove the cats is your decision, hope you don't regret that in the future, if the building get infestation of rats and cockroaches, then the structure will be known as the rat Morro San Juan place. I said that because many persons I know when they go Morro, they said let's go to the Morro cats place, is known as is.</p> <p>God bless you.</p> <p>Whatever is your decision, that God help you, give you the right direction and the nonprofit institutions also help on this effort to protect the Morro structure and the welfare of the cats, which as I said before. Morro place is really amazing visiting it with all the cats that look like live statues giving a show of playing, cleaning each other, and inspire love when the families see them, and appreciation to the persons that allow this different and unique, really unique experience when visiting.</p> <p>You have a blessing on your hands.</p> <p>Best regards,</p>
2292	<p>I support leaving the cats there and scaling up your public education campaign and TNR efforts. Trap, neuter, return works all over the world to care for feral cat populations. Do not remove the cats just manage them more effectively</p>
2293	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vacuum Effect - remove the cats and the rats come, which do spread diseases 2. Cats are not aggressive 3. Suggestion: Donate money and support the work of Save a Gato
2294	<p>Once you employ the cat management program, how long will it be until you implement the rodent management program. How deep goes the lack of foresight into this measure that you cannot see the obvious. The cats are natural predators of rats and mice, In the 50 years that I have lived in San Juan I have not ever seen a rat problem. Just you wait till you get rid of the cats; you are in for a terrible surprise. The rat problem will multiply exponentially, and you will then really have a true disease vector to deal with. Don't you have better things to do with the taxpayer's money? Hire more friendly park rangers who can give tours? Put more garbage cans in San Juan, Do reenactments that can culturally instruct people, just leave the cats alone!</p>
2295	<p>For many years cats have inhabited Old San Juan in harmony with residents, both local and international visitors. Many people come daily to visit them and enjoy their company. The plan presented by the National Park Service is one that threatens the life and well-being of these creatures. If they take them, what are they going to do with them? There are no shelters or homes anymore. They are used to living there. In addition to the fact that if they are removed, new cats will arrive, due to the vacuum effect, that will not be vaccinated or sterilized.</p> <p>Cats control pests and do no harm, they promote the economy (tourism) and they arrived before us. They must remain in San Juan.</p>
2296	<p>Cheers,</p> <p>I am a resident of San Juan. I worked for two years with the ICP in Old San Juan, right near where the cat colony is located. During my time working in that place, I never heard a</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>negative comment about the cats, if not quite the opposite. They are beings who feel and suffer, so preserving their lives is a priority. As an idea I suggest that what both the federal and state governments should do is join forces with organizations like Save a Gato, provide funds or spaces where respect for felines, their care or future adoption is promoted. I have witnessed how much we like to allocate funds for completely unnecessary activities or projects. From what I understand designating funds to help these organizations and carry out activities to preserve the life of felines would be much better and would even help them attract visitors and profits to the park due to the attractions they are for tourists and locals.</p>
2297	<p>That kittens are a blessing. Most are spayed and/or neutered. They are the delights of tourists (it is not true that tourists complain, the residents know and sometimes even photograph the kittens). In addition, these cats keep the Paseo free of rats, since where there are cats, there are no rats. Cats are tame. It is not true that they are dangerous.</p> <p>My grandchildren were raised visiting those kittens, those were decisive experiences and today one of them is a rescuer and vegetarian. I think it is an aberration of the feds to want to remove, that is, kill the kittens without respecting the opinion, feelings and wishes of the residents.</p> <p>It is not true of what the feds accuse the cats, it is even atypical and illegal. We need to support Save a Gato and the feds need to stop lying about the kitten population saying it's increased. The parameters of the study on which they are based are false. Cats do not give diseases, quite the opposite.</p>
2298	<p>Getting us out doesn't solve anything because more will come. They did not ask to be born. In addition, Save a Cat cannot control the fact that people continue to throw away cats without sterilization. Getting them out of there is not the solution.</p> <p>8 years voluntary work with SAG</p>
2299	<p>Es lamentable que esa sea la solución que quiera proveer el servicio nacional de parques, en vez de ayudar de otra manera a proteger y buscarles hogar, porque en definitiva terminarían practicándoles la eutanasia, es más fácil para ellos salir del problema..en vez de dedicarse a mejorar nuestros parques que bastantes que hay en el abandono cuando mi hija era pequeña, este era uno de sus paseos favoritos ir por el viejo san juan a ver los gatos. ya es una adulta y aun de vez en cuando dice vamos a san juan a ver los gatos.</p>
2300	<p>I would like you to disseminate the parameters of the feline population study that was carried out in 2021. In particular, how they distinguish some cats from others, when they have similar fur / markings (such as black cats). Save a Gato traps and sterilizes cats daily. If the cat population has increased in recent years, it's not because the CER (TNR) system doesn't work. The increase in the feline population is caused by the constant abandonment of cats, which is illegal. I would like to know what the plan of National Parks and the local government is to reduce the abandonment of cats on the Paseo. The potential contagion of diseases transmitted by cats is minimal and the risk did not increase with the increase in the cat population, otherwise it would be an epidemic recorded by the Department of Health. Cats and their presence are the easiest and cheapest way to control pests such as rats, which abound in Old San Juan. Save a Gato has operated since 2005 on the basis of donations without help from the local government or National Parks. With the support of both, this organization could achieve much more. Cats are an excellent tourist attraction. National Parks has not specified what would happen to the cats if they are removed. Would they be killed?</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2301	<p>Why the cats?</p> <p>Within the area there are other invasive species more harmful than cats. In other parks, mitigation proposals have been implemented that protect the existence of other species and control their reproduction without having to remove them from their habitat.</p> <p>Much of the information provided is not completely accurate and no evidence from the studies is presented. Others are presented in other animals of the area.</p> <p>These cats have lived or inhabited the place for years, removing them is a mistake. Whoever breaks the law by abandoning new cats should be monitored. Those are the real problems.</p>
2302	<p>Cafe del Niño located on the grounds of Parque de las Palomas. We began to maintain the Park (PDLA) in March 2022, we had 4 stray cats in the area, now in November 2022 we have approximately 14. We see more every day. The person who feeds them is not responsible for the maintenance of the area. As a small business we are directly affected. We are a cafe dedicated to children. The area tends to stink, and it is tiring to have to clean every day to protect the children. I am very concerned about the Public Health of the area. The cost of cleaning every day is increasing, something that whoever feeds them does not take care of it either. It is for this and more about this situation that we fully agree with your plans and with everything exposed presented. Our job is to keep the Parque de las Palomas clean and protected and we had to do the same job of investigating the best way to control the pigeon population. This is why we understand your plan as a park. We need help with cats URGENT!</p>
2303	<p>The environmental impact of the cats is understood, but has the park done a study of the impact of the infestation of rats and cockroaches in the area? What will the park do to control pests?</p> <p>Is there a plan for the control of iguanas? Because yes, they are also a health risk due to the spread of salmonella and other diseases.</p> <p>If the concern with cats is toxoplasma, the same is transmitted by pigeons.</p> <p>Will you end up taking everything out?</p> <p>Does the park have the resources?</p> <p>I think the park has more pressing needs other than cats.</p>
2304	<p>Vaccum effect when removing cats from an area after a short time other cats will come to occupy the space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laws and fines to penalize cat abandonment should be strengthened and those funds should be earmarked for Save-A-Gato. • Cats are part of the history and culture of Old San Juan; inspiration for books, calendars, crafts, etc. • There is no evidence of attacks or diseases caused by the cats of Old San Juan.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They keep Old San Juan free of rats, mice, iguanas, vermin, etc. • They psychologically help many residents of Old San Juan and Puerto Rico who visit the Paseo to free themselves. Help/funds/support is needed to continue TNR and other needs. • THEY ARE NOT CATS FROM OLD SAN JUAN, THEY ARE RESIDENTS OF OLD SAN JUAN.
2305	<p>I don't just want a space to write, I want what I write to have a solution, to be heard.</p> <p>It is an aberration to want to displace these animals that are part of the history and pest control in Old San Juan.</p> <p>Apart from that, cats are a "surly" "treacherous" discriminated species because they have not given themselves the opportunity to meet them.</p> <p>We want humane solutions without having to remove them.</p> <p>Tell me what these supposed pests are.</p> <p>Where are these supposed investigations, it is easy to say let's "talk" but that you "federals" do not have a possible strategy.</p> <p>Well then this is a desire to bother...</p> <p>Why not help the non-profit institution Save_A-Gato to distribute flyers promoting foster care or the adoption of kittens from Old San Juan.</p> <p>There are countries larger than Puerto Rico that live with cats and are part of the community and control; and you complain a bit about where the cats are.</p> <p>Help the cats have a home and don't talk about things without basic evidence or foundation.</p>
2306	<p>The problem of street cats is deeper than the cats on Paseo de El Morro.</p> <p>There is a problem of abandonment of animals in the country of dogs and cats.</p> <p>My recommendation is to continue the citizen consultation process, but the option is not to euthanize animals, only those that have leukemia or other serious conditions.</p>
2307	<p>It is proven worldwide that TNR is the logical and humane solution. Eliminating cats is not the solution or guarantee that more cats will not come to occupy the area, even if they are not fed and they will come without having been sterilized and the vicious circle will continue, killing and removing cats weekly and spending more money instead of contributing to Save - A-Cat to sterilize. Cats are a tourist attraction; you'll see it on Trip Advisor.</p> <p>Tourists are the ones who donate to Save-A-Gato.</p> <p>If it weren't for the cats, San Juan would be a rat's nest because of the garbage that people leave behind. They must be more vigilant to avoid abandonment and seek a truly humane and logical solution.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2308	<p>1. Every time a cat is caught, it would be efficient to put a chip in it to be able to monitor them, which would greatly help planning the population control.</p> <p>2. Provide information at doctors and veterinaries' offices on the benefits of having and caring for a cat for the treatment of depression, anxiety and other psychological conditions.</p> <p>3. The installation of cameras with the consent of Save-A-Gato to study the stray cats population.</p> <p>4. Introduce cameras in collars designed for cats, making their study more effective in terms of their movements and hunting to control pests in the community.</p> <p>5. Allocate funds for all the suggestions given above along with the maintenance of the Paseo del Morro because these areas are not properly illuminated for the safety of its visitors as well as the resident cats that maintain sanitary security to control the overpopulation of rats.</p>
2309	<p>Since my high school study days, I dedicated voluntary hours to caring for the areas of the Paseo de la Princesa where most of the cat colony lives. I was part of the Save a Gato organization for a year and a half and during that time I was able to witness the positive effects of pest control, the tourist attraction, the proportion of mental health and simply the entertainment of many people in Old San Juan. By interpreting the educational process and the awareness of the harmony of human beings and animals since childhood, more compassionate human beings are produced. The TNR allows the birth rate of these cats to be controlled. The federal and state government must work hand in hand with organizations such as Save a Gato, who base their work and the Trap-Neuter-Release in scientific evidence backed by veterinarians. Apart from being a tourist attraction, they are a cultural institution that is part of the Puerto Rican heritage. The final word should be that of the Puerto Rican population who is directly affected by the efforts of the volunteer components that care for the cats.</p>
2310	<p>I was part of the group from 2007-2008 that dealt with the problem of cats with Park Services we did not want it to be a temporary solution. I have dedicated more than 50 years to the protection of cats (that unlike the United States, England, Germany and others) suffer from prejudice more than dogs probably from Spanish heritage) and I see that it has not changed in this half century. The place has been.</p> <p>These decisions are made without humanitarian values, tourism the economy but the cats of San Juan are residents and sentient beings.</p>
2311	<p>I oppose any intervention with cats other than sterilization and feeding.</p> <p>a San Juan resident since 1979.</p> <p>Humans are also an invasive species.</p>
2312	<p>I have been in Old San Juan for 62 years and cats have always been a part of Old San Juan. I disagree with removing cats from the ride. They are an integral part of the community. An agreement must be reached so that they live in health and harmony because they are part of the community.</p>
2313	<p>Please use the Trap Neuter Return method to humanely control the feral cat population. This humane method is effective and in use in Hawaii, Australia and many communities in the United States.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2314	<p>Why did you not have the respect to organize this meeting?</p> <p>How many cats could Save-A-Gato have sterilized with the \$ spent on these posters?</p> <p>200 cats = 200 less rats</p>
2315	<p>Cats are not to be killed.</p> <p>San Juan is full of rats inside the restaurants. See mousetraps on sidewalks behind restaurants.</p>
2316	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That is their habitat. A habitat that was invaded by the construction of the Paseo. Do not remove them. 2. Cats control the rats in the Paseo. This is evidenced when you walk and find dead rats in the middle of the walkway. Go and see. 3. Cats are peaceful, they do not attack or approach. They are not a threat or a nuisance! 4. They are an attraction, many of us enjoy their company when walking
2317	<p>They are not strays.</p> <p>They are not stray cats, in their habitat, it is their home.</p> <p>We are used to seeing them and feeding them.</p> <p>At Save-A-Gato they have taken care of sterilizing and vaccinating them.</p> <p>They are at home.</p> <p>Tourists come to see them.</p> <p>Also in Florida they have cats and tourists visit them in Key West-Hemingways.</p> <p>Why can't we have them?</p> <p>This did not start yesterday, since 1971 we have been protecting them.</p>
2318	<p>The problem is the humans, not the stray cats!</p> <p>Do you know what cat trap companies do?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They are not registered with the Department of the Treasury. 2. They capture the cats and lock them in their trucks under the sun until they suffocate to death.
2319	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leave the sterilized cats alone on the Paseo. 2. Catch and sterilize those that are not operated. 3. Relocate the excess: the little ones and the sick in habitable places where they are provided with the necessary care.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Killing will never be an option except for ignorant and weak spirits.</p> <p>It is inhumane to want to hurt that which does not hurt you. There is a reality and that is that cats have controlled the vermin in Old San Juan. Killing is not an option it is better to help us so that the cats can have an owner. Would you like to be killed just because for others you are a nuisance? Don't do it with animals which are a part of nature's creation.</p>
2320	<p>Feeding animals in public areas or uncontrolled spaces affects the Balance of coexistence.</p> <p>If you feed them, you should clean up after them.</p> <p>Feeding them and leaving behind boxes and plates everywhere and expecting others to clean up the excrement/urine and trash is inconsiderate to the whole community.</p> <p>If you feed them and name them, you should be 100% responsible for them.</p>
2321	<p>Remove and create a suitable space for the care and maintenance of the area. (Sanctuary) a controlled shelter. This way everyone is better, the cats, residents and visitors.</p>
2322	<p>As a resident walking by the area and [unreadable] in the middle of the walk to notice the smell of cat urine is disgusting, even for the visitors and tourists. It leaves a bad impression in everyone. A [unreadable] of [unreadable] before the area.</p>
2323	<p>CAT LIVES MATTER</p> <p>What budget is there to sterilize cats?</p> <p>What budget is there to kill cats?</p> <p>Cats are not to be killed, they are essential.</p>
2324	<p>What would happen to the cats?</p> <p>I would like to know, what were the parameters for the study of the feline population that they carried out in 2021? How exactly they counted each cat and knew how to distinguish between cats with similar appearance (i.e., black cats)?</p> <p>The CER system (TNR in english) DOES work.</p> <p>The problem, the reason why there is no palpable reduction in the feline population is the abandonment of cats near colonies, which is ILLEGAL.</p> <p>What is the NPS and the local government's plan to combat cat abandonment?</p> <p>Many animals can transmit disease.</p> <p>Like many infections, toxoplasmosis must be put in context.</p> <p>It is NOT an epidemic, if it were ALL the volunteers of Save-A-Gato, veterinaries, etc. would easily get infected.</p> <p>Show us the records from the Health Department that contain the rate of infections caused by</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>the cats on the Paseo.</p> <p>The presence of cats produces control of pests such as rats which spread many more diseases than cats.</p> <p>Are they going to kill the cats?</p> <p>What are they going to do with them?</p>
2325	<p>Save-a-Gato should be supported.</p> <p>Meetings without chairs are not called!</p> <p>Without paper!</p> <p>Cats must be protected.</p>
2326	<p>I have been in San Juan for 47 years.</p> <p>Before there were rats and mice.</p> <p>Killing cats is not justified.</p>
2327	<p>The community opposes killing cats.</p> <p>More support for Save-A-Gato.</p>
2328	<p>If you want written opinions, here they are</p> <p>THE FINAL SOLUTION HITLER</p>
2329	<p>VACCUM EFFECT when cats are removed from a spac[e]</p>
2330	<p>PLEASE dont take away our cats in Old San Juan! They're eell-talen care of and they're home</p>
2331	<p>Cheers:</p> <p>May this letter to submit my comments and recommendations to the press release Environmental Assessment for Paseo del Morro and the Stray Cat Management Plan bulletin issued by the National Park Service on October 23 and to the proposed actions. The CER plan in Paseo La Princesa established in 2005 in an agreement between Save-A-Gato and the National Park Service and the cat colony established there, are a collaborative tool successfully implemented with 17 years of effort and work. The proposed action for the cat removal plan described in the newsletter fails to consider the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area of Paseo La Princesa is not a protected area of native wildlife, does not contain forest or coastal areas, and in fact, is already impacted by the construction of the existing pedestrian promenade. • No threatened or endangered species of any kind has been documented on Paseo La Princesa. Wildlife protection on the Paseo is therefore unnecessary. • The possible predation of birds by feral cats, if it happened, would be isolated to species such as the mozambique (chango) and various types of pigeons, which feed on waste from human activities on the ground, since there are no naturel food sources throughout the park

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>(palms, trees or bushes). These species are in turn considered unwanted pests. In the case of the house pigeon, it is a well-known tourist attraction in Old San Juan, the feeding of this species in the area of the Capilla del Cristo. Bird droppings are detrimental to historic structures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Paseo La Princesa there are no natural food sources for common, native species or migratory birds. • The few existing green areas that are also used to set up feeding stations for the colony are also used by other domestic animals, such as dogs that are taken to the Paseo by their owners to defecate and urinate. This is a contributor to the stench that exists on the Paseo that doesn't just come from the cat colony. • The census carried out by the National Park Service was carried out in 2021 in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, at a time when voluntary participation in non-profit organizations was nil and when abandonment of domestic animals in Puerto Rico began to reach his highest level, where it continues. The 2001 feral cat population estimate is not a satisfactory indicator of growth behavior or the success of the current CER plan. • There is an absence of comparative data in the bulletin on the behavior of the population since 2005, through the years, and in addition, there is no data on the progress of the Save-A-Gato group's efforts to sterilize, remove /rescue and give up cats from the colonies for adoption. No distinction is made in the number of ear-tagged cats versus the observed number of untagged cats, which may be entering the park but are not part of the managed colony. The claim that the CER program is not working is not supported by the information presented. • No data is provided to support that the proposed cat removal plan using trap and remove methods will give the desired control result, as there are no published scientific reports or studies evidencing successful control of feral cat populations using those methods in open areas. • The presence of a population of feral and domestic cats in the areas surrounding the Paseo is mainly due to the availability of food and shelter that exists in the center of Old San Juan. As long as those conditions exist, coupled with the continued abandonment of additional domestic cats by the public noted in the bulletin, the CER program is the only option to maintain flow out of the park and balance within the park, as has already been achieved. <p>Los programas de remoción y eutanasia masiva sólo alivian situaciones de estorbo a corto plazo, y como indica el boletín informativo en la página 3, en un sistema abierto (no aislado) como el parque, no es una solución a largo plazo. No existe ningún grupo incorporación u organización que promueva la remoción de gatos ferales como un método de control satisfactorio, sin embargo, reconocidas organizaciones como Best Friends Animal Society, No Kill Advocacy Center y Alley Cat Allies promueven y sustentan el éxito de los programas CER.</p> <p>Removal and mass euthanasia programs only alleviate short-term nuisance situations, and as the newsletter on page 3 indicates, in an open (non-isolated) system like the park, it is not a long-term solution. There is no corporation group or organization that promotes the removal of feral cats as a successful control method, however, well-known organizations such as Best</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Friends Animal Society, No Kill Advocacy Center, and Alley Cat Allies promote and support the success of CER programs.</p> <p>The removal of the CER program and the agreement with Save-A-Gato would have the following immediate consequences, ensuring the failure of a removal plan as proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate recolonization of park areas with new, unsterilized feral cats • Increase in the cat population within the park as soon as the mating seasons arrives in March and September • Increase in feline population diseases without medical attention • Increase in urine error as a result of the presence of unneutered male cats • Increase in the population of rats on the promenade due to the lack of the presence of cats from the colony to keep them away from the area. • Withdrawal of support from the local Old San Juan community and non-profit organizations to resolve and support National Parks initiatives in relation to this issue. • Withdrawal of support from the general public and tourists who visit the park to enjoy the park and its colony of cats, substantially evidenced on social networks. <p>Therefore, and due to the expressed above, the only method to maintain control of the feral cat population and the balance of the population in the Paseo continues to be the CER plan. The resources currently available must be focused on continuing, improving and reinforcing the current CER plan as established to ensure the desired control in the long term. The following recommendations may be considered, among others, and implemented for such purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements in reforestation and decoration of the existing gardens in Paseo La Princesa to improve the pedestrian visual experience and provide better cover for the permitted feeding stations. • Evaluate and optimize the number of feeding stations allowed including relocating or redistributing the stations to areas with less foot traffic to minimize non-positive interactions with visitors. • Implement a cleaning campaign with enzymatic agents or similar to reduce the existing odor in the areas of greatest use (which includes human urine and urine from pets such as dogs). • Designate areas for the use of other pets in the park, such as dogs, for relief of physical needs with active maintenance of these areas. <p>A copy of a study published in 2019 by Frontiers in Veterinary Science is attached for your reference and use.</p> <p>I make myself available to the National Park Service and Save-A-Gato to support initiatives</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>to improve the current CER plan. If you have any doubts or questions, you can contact the number and email address included in my letter.</p> <p>I respectfully remain at your service.</p>
2332	<p>The cats of Old San Juan are a worldwide attraction. They are not "stray" cats but cats cared for by "Save-A-Gato" and the people who live in the area. If the cats in Old San Juan had diseases, then the volunteers who care for them would also be sick and that is not the case. The cats in the area have been around longer than many people now living in the area and because cats have done it before, they will continue to breed, even if you try to eliminate them. The ideal is to continue sterilizing them and promoting good care for them at the island / social level.</p>
2333	<p>I don't understand what the problem is because they never identified it. If it's the odors, where I live, we do TNR and use an organic product to control odors. If you are interested, I can provide you with information. I lived 26 years in Old San Juan and the cats have been there for hundreds of years.</p>
2334	<p>The "problems" conceived really have simple solutions. The smell and cleaning are not complex situations to solve. Cleaning also corresponds to its inhabitants; responsibility cannot be relegated exclusively to government agencies. Communities are also willing to help if they know how and if they have knowledge and tools. On the other hand, the presence of cats invites possible positive economics. It is a fact that there are those who will support and do their part to turn this into a profitable situation. Transparency data and knowledge is needed.</p>
2335	<p>Greetings. I am a resident of San Juan, Hato Rey for 46 years and a user of Paseo del Morro for 4 years. I enjoy spectacular sunsets and sunrises!; for me it is a special place. Special for the beauty of the place and the landscape; but primarily for the kittens. These "wild" animals for many "free-raning" for others; They have been an integral part of my life. Going for a walk is healthy and therapeutic for me. When I found out about this process, I wanted to send my opinion because I think it is important to let myself feel and reciprocate the love that I have received in said cat place. I have read the plan several times and it doesn't make sense to want to remove the cats. I think there is room for improvement, like everything; but raising funds and caring for such a large colony of cats is not an easy task. I could refute all the points in the report, but I prefer to add my suggestions hoping they will be taken into consideration. *Renew the agreement with SAG (Save-A-Gato) based on the understanding that removing cats IS NOT AN OPTION. CATS SHOULD STAY ON PASEO DEL MORRO! *Funds that would be used to "remove" them should be used to help SAG continue to sterilize (TNR).</p>
2336	<p>They should not remove the cats since that place is their habitat for decades.</p> <p>The National Park Service agency must learn to live with cats, since they were there first.</p> <p>In addition, cats avoid plagues of rats, mice and cockroaches. They even prevent the spread of diseases that these animals can transmit.</p>
2337	<p>Security cameras are needed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protection of walkers when there are not many people 2. Capture and denounce and fine whoever releases cats there.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Also achieve an alliance with the municipality to educate citizens + support \$\$\$ Save-A-Gato.</p> <p>TNR WORKS!</p> <p>Let's be civilized & love cats.</p>
2338	<p>The solution is not to kill them or remove them from the Paseo. Provide help to SAG, donations, volunteers to help, offer SAG a bigger place and help with sterilizations, because SAG works with volunteers and donations, you know it and they bite the bullet and you don't have money to cover every time people throw away/abandon and will continue to do so in Old San Juan and also the cats will continue to arrive at Paseo that is inevitable.</p> <p>You have cats, what real grounds do you have for wanting to remove them?</p>
2339	<p>Removing cats from Paseo del Morro is NOT an option:</p> <p>However, there are spaces to improve what we currently do. Here some suggestions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve food stations around Old San Juan to prevent them from migrating to Paseo del Morro. 2. Support Save-A-Gato financially so they can continue to do their job. 3. Education campaign for all citizens. <p>Now I ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What guarantee does SAG and the public in general have that it will be a transparent process and that we will have ALL the information and that suggestions will be taken into account even if they do not go or are not in accordance with what is precisely written in the plan. • What company will they use to "humanely remove" them? • What is "Denning"? to remove the cats. • What about Law 154? <p>Final comment:</p> <p>What is stated in the presentations does not have certain or clear foundations. I do not agree with the removal of cats.</p>
2340	<p>No feasible solutions are being provided.</p> <p>How can we offer our opinion and solutions if we do not know the concrete plan?</p> <p>There is no way to "remove" the cats, they will keep coming.</p> <p>If they are willing to pay for surveillance so they don't continue to be abandoned once they</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>are "removed" why can't they use those funds now to help sterilize and prevent abandonment now without removal?</p> <p>Cats are not the cause of "smells" in Old San Juan, I have never smelled or seen waste since cats cover it up and also sterilized cats do not mark.</p> <p>The smells I've smelled are human waste, homeless people, and drunk people.</p> <p>I have never had a problem with cats or interacted with anyone who said something negative about them.</p> <p>TNR works.</p> <p>Use the funds to educate the town and to support Save-A-Gato rescues and TNR.</p> <p>There is no way to remove them unless a "no-kill" shelter is created.</p> <p>There is already too much lack of education and hatred for these animals.</p> <p>Don't contribute to this.</p>
2341	<p>I worked at the National Park Service for 1 year and I sent all the tourists to see the cats and they told me how much they liked it and/or how friendly they were. On one occasion a couple adopted a cat and brought it back to Arizona with them.</p> <p>I think that with all the donations they receive daily they can take a part and help these cats.</p>
2342	<p>I'm from Arecibo and I love cats.</p> <p>I propose a cat sanctuary be made and they can all live together respecting each other as it should be.</p> <p>We need these animals so that there are no plagues of mice and rodents and so that visitors to Paseo del Morro are happy and can live with cats.</p> <p>For everything there is a solution.</p> <p>Find it please.</p> <p>We need union and more humanity.</p> <p>Thanks in advance.</p>
2343	<p>The solution to the "invasion" of cats is not to kill them. The solution is not to get rid of the cats. They are a part of Old San Juan's history. The solution is to work alongside the locals to create a symbiotic relationship with our wildlife.</p> <p>With our earth... Help the locals maintain the cat houses area, clean up, food, etc. We, the people, pay taxes for your services, yet our opinions don't matter. You should help the wildlife, protect them, not protect your relationship with whoever is asking for this. You should be our mediators and help us communicate to our government what the needs of the</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	public and wildlife and nature is. Your job is important, your job means something. Do what's right. Don't hire outsiders to kill our culture.
2344	<p>Starting from the premise that removing cats from the walk IS NOT AN OPTION, my suggestions would be the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greater security presence on the Paseo del Morro to avoid the abandonment of cats. 2. As part of the cleaning of the walk, use machines that can clean the areas where there is a higher concentration of urine and feces, do not leave everything to the volunteers of Save-A-Gato who clean weekly. 3. Add public fountain pens so volunteers can better clean stations. 4. Help the Save-A-Gato volunteers move stones and sand/soil to cover areas near the public or create areas for them. 5. Allow cat and cat volunteers to evaluate cats that may be aging or sick to use them since they know them best and have given them previous treatment. 6. Enforce the animal protection laws in Puerto Rico by working together with the state and municipal governments that are also responsible for the rest of Old San Juan and Puerto Rico.
2345	<p>Originally from Gurabo/Caguas I moved to Vieques to work as a veterinary technician. One of the first things I learned was how much people love their cats. Almost every residence in Vieques has a colony of cats (neutered, vaccinated, cared for and fed.</p> <p>If the care of the cats of San Juan is going to fall in the town, this is what I recommend:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Educate the people about TNR. 2. Collaboration with shelters or veterinary clinics that provide low-cost sterilization to these animals. Vieques is a poor town, yet they strive to control their cat population. 3. Organizations like the Vieques Humane Society and Our Big Fat Caribbean Rescues offer free or low-cost veterinary (TNR) care to the community. <p>I implore you to collaborate with veterinarians on the island willing to help control the cat population.</p> <p>The news of the removal of these cats reached Vieques and the "push back" you will get from the town will be even bigger.</p> <p>These cats are also San Juan residents!</p>
2346	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regarding the alleged relocation: Where? All the places are full. Releasing them elsewhere is against Law 154. 2. Specific list of endangered species that are being affected by cats. Iguanas, lizards, monkeys, pigeons? They are more in danger from people than from cats.

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>3. The garbage that people leave behind is worse for tourism than cats.</p> <p>4. The arguments of your plan are vague and have no scientific evidence to support them.</p> <p>5. You can tell they don't know about cats or their behavior and are underestimating the intelligence of those of we who do know. TNR does work.</p> <p>6. They cannot compare the rules of not feeding in other parks because bears or lizards are dangerous, cats are not. The rules must be applied according to the circumstances.</p> <p>7. Instead of paying an exterminator to kill animals, donate those funds to the TNR, which is the only logical and humane solution.</p>
2347	<p>Save-A-Gato is a really important component the community of Old San Juan and Puerto Rico. The cats are permanent residents and won't be leaving because we won't let you. If those cats leave it will erupt a chaos from part of the community and the people of PR. Not only these cats are native and have right to stay but they have help many with mental health problems and people who need companionship.</p> <p>The people of Save-A-Gato have done so much that the government hasn't.</p>
2348	<p>The cats in old San Juan are part of the city . This is a more than 500 years old city .The feral cats maintain the city mice controlled . Also the cats are part of the city ambience and attractions . Some feral cats cannot be adopted they will be eutanized. They are happy in their neighborhood .There are several organization such as save s cat that works with them . They need economic help to control cat population . It is a better choice to help those organizations .</p>
2349	<p>Los gatos han vivido toda su vida en ese lugar he visto como los turistas los retratan para llevarse un lindo recuerdo de la isla y le traen bolsitas de merienda para gatos y los acarician. Sería algo triste y fuerte sacarlos de su hábitat, lo cual están acostumbrados a estar ahí. He visto como la agencia save a gato les ponen agua y alimentos. No los saquen de ese lugar. Por favor déjenlos ser felices como siempre han sido. Allí no apesta , son los humanos que se orinan. Me daría tristeza que los sacaran de forma abruta sería muy fuerte para ellos. No lo hagan.</p>
2350	<p>Why? Those cats are spayed, Save a Sato have a program that they take care for them, feed them and spayed them and release. They find homes to a lot of them too. The cats are a special place in the place and is us to decide about to be honest. They help with rats plague, who are the worst fir the place. And what are you going to do? Kill them? Poison them? What? Because that is not the way and we're going to fight for their right to live.</p>
2351	<p>Saludos.</p> <p>Punto 1: Esos gatos son una institucion en el viejo San Juan.</p> <p>Punto 2: Su mera presencia y el buen manejo de desperdicios hace que no se establezcan colonias de ratones en el area.</p> <p>Punto 3: En el famoso Coliseo de Roma surgió la misma situacion y la ciudadanía defendió a los gatos.</p> <p>Me opongo a su erradicacion o relocalizacion.Respeto mucho a las instituciones federales, para que incurran en semejante crueldad. Ustedes tienen que ser un ejemplo para la desidia que reina en la isla.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Favorezco que se haga un programa de captura, esterilizacion y suelta en lo que es su hogar.</p> <p>Como animales territoriales que son, si los eliminan se va a llenar de nuevo el area de gatos del viejo San Juan, gatos sin control sanitario, llenos de parasitos y en el periodo de no presencia, como van a controlar el crecimiento exponencial de las colonias de ratas?</p>
2352	<p>I am a New York based professional, who loves visiting Puerto Rico. I also rescue and TNR cats in my freetime. With years of experience in TNR, I plead with you to implement a TNR program for the Old San Juan cats. Do not euthanize them. This is not only cruel to the animals and damaging to the neighborhoods (pest management, image, and general joy for residents and tourists) but also short-sighted. The remaining cats will continue to reproduce if not TNR'ed and may introduce diseases if not vaccinated. Look at cities like Atlantic City as an example for success: colonies are taken care of and well-managed and populations remain at sustainable levels or even decrease, all without disease and euthanasia. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
2353	<p>Deben demostrar con evidencias que harán con los gatos. Porque matarlos no es una opción. Las leyes deben respetarse, aplica al ciudadano y al gobierno. Esta fundación, save a gato no depende del gobierno para cuidar de los felinos. Respeten sus vidas por favor. No hace sentido sacarlos del área del viejo San Juan. De necesitar firmas pueden contactarme.</p>
2354	<p>Saludos, por este medio sugiero que se les provea un centro para re-ubicar a los gatitos. El plan de esterilización ha funcionando y definitivamente SAG ha hecho una excelente labor con la ayuda del pueblo. Sabemos que los centros de control de animales creen en la eutanasia y esta NO debe ser una opción pues siguen siendo seres vivientes que sienten y padecen. Por esa razón apoyo a SAG, porque creen en el bienestar de los gatitos y no en eliminarlos. Por tanto, como mencioné, sugiero que se les provea una re-ubicación.</p>
2355	<p>Saludos, por este medio sugiero que se les provea un centro para re-ubicar a los gatitos. El plan de esterilización ha funcionando y definitivamente SAG ha hecho una excelente labor con la ayuda del pueblo. Sabemos que los centros de control de animales creen en la eutanasia y esta NO debe ser una opción pues siguen siendo seres vivientes que sienten y padecen. Por esa razón apoyo a SAG, porque creen en el bienestar de los gatitos y no en eliminarlos. Por tanto, como mencioné, sugiero que se les provea una re-ubicación.</p>
2356	<p>Hi,</p> <p>This is in my opinion a waste of resources. Cats were bought to San Juan in 1523 by the Spanish to control the rodent population WHICH IS STILL ENDEMIC within the old city walls. In fact, any walk around the old city will reveal numerous cats in the city. Removing the cats from the National Historic Site WILL NOT fix the problem as the cats not there will continue to procreate and eventually move to the Historic Site again.</p> <p>In fact, it will make the problem worse as now the cats in the area are taken care of. By removing the available care, the rest of the cats will undoubtedly end up in fights for food.</p> <p>Now, if the goal is to TEMPORARILY fix the problem ONLY in the Historic Site, with disregard of the walled city, then I would understand. But please make no mistake, the residents of the city WILL suffer due to increased rat population and disease brought by the cats left.</p> <p>Hardly what a good neighbor would do.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	Thanks,
2357	I support "No Action" regarding the feral cat population in San Juan. The practice of TNR is the only viable solution to manage the feral cat population. Please allow Save a Gato to continue their mission!
2358	Un gato es un habitante del planeta, al igual que un Ser Humano. Se deben tomar decisiones justas y racionales. 🐾
2359	The cats are a wonderful part of visiting old san juan and el morro, every time I am there all of the visitors are enjoying taking photos, petting and visiting the cats. I think the groups and volunteers that care for them do a wonderful job and would be heartbroken to see the cats leave.
2360	Please take no action, the cats are a wonderful addition to the area, the walking trail is much more interesting with cats to view along the way. Save a Gato does a great job in caring for the cats, if anything please provide more visibility for save a Gato so more people could volunteer/donate in the care of the cats.
2361	We love the cats and think they are an added attraction, we see many people from the cruise ships going to see them and everyone seems to enjoy them. You could add several area to buy food from dispensers for tourist to purchase food or treats for the cats along the walkway and have brochures to encourage donations to help care for them.
2362	Siempre he sentido orgullo por la manera que Save a Sato ha trabajado el problema de gatos realengos creado por ciudadanos irresponsables. La manera humana que se maneja esa colonia de gatos da cátedra de civismo, compasión, voluntarismo, respeto a la naturaleza, entre otras. Como amante del Viejo San Juan, varias veces al mes camino por San Juan y cuando camino por la colonia de gatos SIEMPRE hay visitantes a nuestra isla alabando la labor de la colonia de Save a Sato y alabando la manera compasiva que se trata el problema de gatos realengos. Lejos de eliminar la colonia, busquemos soluciones de como se puede mejorar. Busquemos ser ejemplo ante el mundo de trato compasivo hacia los animales. Recoger y matar animales realengos es lo mas facil y eso lo hace cualquiera. Buscar soluciones éticas, compasivas, respetando la naturaleza es de mentes grandes. Seamos buen ejemplo ante los visitantes y residentes y enseñemos a otros como manejar estas colonias que existen en todo Puerto Rico y otras partes del mundo.
2363	I want to say that we need those cats in order to keep city rats at bay . Da Juan is a 500 years old city and it has a lot crevices and corridors that dots the old city.We need those cats in order to contain a rat epidemic!
2364	No action!!! Cats are part of Old San Juan, they are not a pest. Cats help with the rat control and it is not right that the municipal government wants to get rid of them. If the government helps with sterilization costs (TNR), we (the people who feed, treat and love the cats and dogs that live in the street) can do a better job taking care of those who can not take care of themselves💕
2365	Los gatos son super necesarios para controlar la plaga de los ratones
2366	Due to the immigration of cats attracted to the feeding station and the influx of cats abandoned at the San Juan park, it is doubtful that Save a Gato will be able to catch and sterilize that many cats. TNR does not work to reduce the cat population, since cats will immigrate to different colonies because of the attraction to a food source. I support chief veterinarian, Carlos Carazo Gilot's plan to remove the cats and relocate them to vacant buildings as a cat shelter.
2367	Hello,

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>As a rescuer, I vehemently disagree with the NPS's decision to euthanize the feral cats of San Juan. Trap Neuter Return (TNR) has been proven to work by drastically reducing the population of ferals. Sterilizing tom cats makes them less aggressive, less prone to spray, and less prone to get into fights with wildlife. Once hormones are in check, and the fact that many are actually dumped house cats, some cats can even be brought indoors. So I would behoove you to partner with local rescue organizations like Save A Gato and create a more humane and ethical initiative to curb the number of strays in San Juan. Furthermore, community cats are great ratters, so they also provide a service to neighborhoods.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p>
2368	<p>Please don't remove the cats, they don't represent any harm to any citizen nor El Morro edification, beside Save a Gato organizaciones bien domingo a títanic labor marina sterilization and feed cats for almost 20 years. They are proof that we can live in peace with natural.</p>
2369	<p>Cats on the historic San Juan site should' t be removed because they don't represent any public safety issues! They've been treated by Save a Gato Foundation which have been doing an amazing job on sterilization of cats emulating cities of Turkey, Egypt and Japan!!! Let's give funding to Save a Gato to continue the sweet labor of taking care of our feline friends!!</p>
2370	<p>The thought of removing the well loved colony shocks and disturbs me. I've loved my time visiting the beautiful old city and seeing the cats was a big part of that. Please reconsider this proposal.</p>
2371	<p>Saludos,</p> <p>Estoy de acuerdo con la remoción de los gatos de el paseo de la princesa, por favor no permitan que save a gato continúe con la practica egoista de mantener gatos en áreas que son para disfrute de humanos, el que quiera mantener gatos que se los lleve a su casa y allí mantenerlos adentro sin dejarlos salir a la calle, estos supuestos animal lover son un problema social para el resto de la población que sufrimos de el mal olor de las áreas entre otras cosas, digo supuestos animal lovers porque Los Gatos matan todo lo que esté en su área, si son tan amantes de los animales pues vamos a remover gatos para que las aves y otros animales como por ejemplo aves, lagartijos e iguana local pueda regresar y haya diversidad de especies y control de insectos, entiendo que el parque tiene que cumplir con unas normas y o reglamentos en cuanto al asunto Los Gatos por lo que este acuerdo con save a gato nunca debió pasar, una vez se remuevan Los Gatos y sean puestos a dormir o que los que están en contra de esto pues se los lleven se debe crear un plan de prevención de alimentación y prevención de abandono de gatos en el área, etas personas que alimentan gatos van a tratar lo que sea por continuar con esta práctica, espero que se tome la decisión más justa para los humanos y no para gatos, el paseo fue diseñado para humanos, Los Gatos son mascotas de la casa.</p> <p>Gracias</p>
2372	<p>No hagan esto! Por favor cuiden Los Gatos. Ellos merecen compasión y paciencia!</p>
2373	<p>As a long time supporter of the San Juan National Historic Site as well as the National Park Service in general, I feel strongly disappointed and concerned by this newsletter and the proposed management plan to address free-ranging cats on the Paseo del Morro.</p> <p>Although I live permanently in the United States, I am a very frequent visitor to Old San Juan as my family owns a residence in Old San Juan.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>I am a very staunch supporter of one of the best nonprofit organizations in Puerto Rico known as Save A Gato, which is located in Old San Juan and is dedicated to the cats of Paseo del Morro. This organization has done incredible humanitarian work to responsibly and thoughtfully manage the problem of the large population of stray cats in Old San Juan and Paseo del Morro. Through their incredible efforts of TNR, this organization has successfully significantly reduced the population of stray cats in Old San Juan.</p> <p>I strongly disagree with the efforts to remove the TNR colony of El Paseo del Morro Trail. The hard work that has been done through Save A Gato should be commended and supported as an example to other communities. TNR is the only humane and effective way to manage cat colonies.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter. I look forward to continuing to support the National Park Service and its commitment to working with local communities. I strongly feel that the National Park Service should set an example in all aspects, including humane treatment of animals.</p>
2374	<p>An additional comment I would like to make is that if the national park service uses its federal resources to help financially SUPPORT the organization save a gato and finds ways to help it accomplish its goals by performing TNR more quickly and efficiently then we can responsibly and ethically deal with this problem. Save A gato is a small organization with few volunteers and relies only on donations and they are the only ones in Puerto Rico who are actually working to address this issue. Please please please support the organization instead of working against them!!!</p>
2375	<p>Please allow the cat colony to stay in the Paseo. They were such a joy to see. And save a Gato works so hard to keep them healthy and they try to tnr all of them they can to prevent breeding.</p>
2376	<p>The cat's home is in Old San Juan. These cats don't harm others and Save A Gato goes above and beyond to help these cats by TNR and also helping rehome any that someone would like to adopt. I enjoyed spending a full day taking care of the cats and letting them know that they are loved and there are humans who love them/want the best for them without removing them from their home.</p>
2377	<p>As a San Juan resident, I don't approve the killing of the cats in Old San Juan.</p>
2378	<p>TNR is inhumane because it relies on the cats dying violently from predation, accidents, and disease. They fight with each other, even after sterilization causing abscess and disease, in this case they die slowly as they suffer to death. The TNR people use the polite term "attrition" to explain how it works when deaths are often gruesome and lonely. House that are used to the relief of going in and out of a house suffer the most.</p> <p>Cats spread diseases to other animals, and often toy with their victims because they hunt for play. It is inhumane. Wild animals do not have immunity built up against many of the diseases carried by urban cats that are dumped into wild area.</p> <p>Cats spread diseases to human beings. T-Gondi is no longer a rare disease that only pregnant women should avoid.</p> <p>Statically it doesn't work. If it did, we would not have a cat overpopulation problem.</p>
2379	<p>I am 61 years old and grew up on the island of Puerto Rico. My abuelas home was in Santurce and my Tia had (&still has) a condo in Old San Juan. There have been feral</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>cats as a part of the landscape in residence throughout OSJ and the El Morro area since I was a little girl. They are a part of the place and generations of local cat lovers have been feeding, watering, trapping, sterilizing and releasing them. The past 20 or so years Save a Gato has been consistently helping to maintain a healthy cat population which has declined in numbers due to the focus on sterilization. The gatos of OSJ and El Morro are an expected part of the fabric and charm of the visit and should absolutely be allowed to remain in their home. If anything, the money earmarked for their planned removal should be used to support the efforts of Save a Gato. Perhaps a collaborative effort would be a better use of time and resources to create a healthier cat colony. Please, please do not remove these cats from their lifetime homes. Nothing about a visit to El Morro would feel the same.</p>
2380	<p>Favor vean también las historias de Ámsterdam y la de Roma y los gatos de la Torre Argentina santuarios en plena ciudad antigua... Hay una muy importante razón para dejar los gatos del Viejo San Juan que tiene que ver por salud y otro que podrían educar y hasta recolectar el dinero necesario para mantenerlos</p>
2381	<p>Please do not remove the cats from Paseo del Morro. Thank you.</p> <p>Favor de no sacar a los gatos del Paseo del Morro. Gracias.</p>
2382	<p>The free-ranging cat "management" plan is a half-baked extermination process of essential urban fauna. It seems to be based on half-truths and misconceptions.</p> <p>Firstly, cats (<i>Felis catus</i>) are not a plague or pest but an animal that began to live symbiotically with mankind about ten millennia ago, as a protector of grain stores predated by rodents. It has been domesticated in a way, but it remains relatively independent, not as "loyal" as dogs. This, though, is its greatest asset. In many settlements, cat clowders help with cleanliness and sanitation. As very clean animals themselves, they expurge the filth and disease borne by urban rodents (rats, <i>Rattus</i> spp. and mice, <i>Mus</i> spp.). In several world cities such as İstanbul in Turkey street cats help with urban cleanliness and rodent suppression.</p> <p>There are concerns about feline waste (feces and urine) but this is controllable with adequate litterbox management. Cats instinctually use litter boxes to hide the smell of their waste, and an adequate system for the El Morro and Old San Juan cats can be easily deployed and managed.</p> <p>The management plan calls for eventual removal of all cats from the Morro/Paseo del Morro area. This is a grievous error since a certain number of felines has to be retained for adequate pest/rodent management in a traditionally heavily rat and roach-infested urban zone. The alleged reports of rats eating on feeding bowls and troughs along the street cats are illogical and bear no basis in fact; no proof has been submitted and the phenomenon is highly speculative. An adequate population of street cats (I guesstimate no less than 200 in the walled area of the Old City and Fortifications, the precise quantity must be calculated by biologists, veterinarians and professional cat custodians such as Save-a-Gato) must be made permanent.</p> <p>Overflow population of cats is actually addressed by Save-a-Gato and collaborators with aggressive spaying/neutering and adoption offers to the general public, and it should remain that way. However, the adoption process could take a page from many world cities - including many in the USA - and a CAT CAFÉ should be established somewhere in Old San</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Juan. Here clients can enjoy light meals and drinks with &quot;cute kitties&quot; culled from the city's street cat population, and adopt them. The cafés should also function as information centers about the value of cats as essential urban animals as well as a tourist attraction that will instill respect for our furry four-legged, long-tailed friends.</p> <p>The funding to be spent on contracted cat removal, as per the proposal, with no guarantee of humane treatment, could be instead channeled to essential needs like wise litter management and the possibility of the aforementioned Cat Cafés. And the example could be reached out to other Puerto Rican city centers with rodent-infestation problems. Tourism and culture will be greatly enhanced by keeping the presence of beautiful felines roaming around the historical presences of San Juan's Spanish-inspired past.</p>
2383	<p>The cats should be removed by a removal agency to stop their numbers from growing.</p> <p>The TNR save a gato is not working because they feed the cats more than they neuter them.</p> <p>The cats are sick and injured which makes San Juan look cruel to visitors.</p> <p>The TNR save a gato will not take the cats to a vet because of high bills.</p> <p>The cats are sick and injured for the world to see. This is not the image we want.</p>
2384	<p>Hello! I support No Action on Free-Ranging Cat Management Plan. Even if there is a way &quot;humanely&quot; capture and remove about 200 cats, where all these cats will be humanely moved? There is no clear explanation for that in the plan.</p> <p>Rather to spend tax funds on the questionable plan like that maybe some of those funds can be used to help Save a Gato organize mass TNR events to address the growing population. Maybe there is a way to turn the cats, that are much bellowed by the residents as i understand, into a feature of the park rather than a nuisance.</p> <p>Thank you for the consideration.</p>
2385	<p>I suggest we put the kitty's in a cat sanctuary like Lanai did. The Lanai cat sanctuary is really popular and the whole world knows about it. The sanctuary has more than 600 cats. All the cats are live trapped in different places and then released inside the sanctuary with no risk of euthanasia. It's great for birds too because the birds are protected from the cats who are fenced in. The Lanai cat sanctuary gets all its funding from visitors and donors, with no money coming from the government or the residents.</p> <p>Source: https://lanaicatsanctuary.org/</p>
2386	<p>I would like to suggest a no move policy for these cats. Relocating cats is extremely dangerous and stressful for them. It has also been a great tourist attraction in old San Juan. Possibly the best rated one. These cats should be protected.</p>
2387	<p>I recently returned from visiting the Paseo del Morro. Though I like cats, turning this beautiful, historical site into a feline sanctuary detracts significantly from the visitor experience, and negatively affects the site's tourism impact. Despite the presence of a constant sea breeze I could smell cat feces and urine along much of the path, so I can't imagine how much was actually present all around me.</p> <p>The cat population's growth since 2005 is evidence that TNR isn't effective in the Paseo del Morro's open system – nor can it ever be. I support the idea of having a cat sanctuary, but the Paseo del Morro is not the place for it.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2388	Cats, as everyone and everything else have been abandoned. San Juan should be a sanctuary for this cats. Veterinary care should be provided. Hopefully these cats will have their 7 lives (9 is the life expectancy of US cats) can get rid of the real rats, the humans that wants SanJuan to look good for the tourist, not be good and healthy for its own sake.
2389	These cats are an unfortunate nuisance! Please control the population as humanely as possible, but try to clean the whole area of cats.
2390	Please keep , allow for the historic cats colony on paseo del morro in old SanJuan to stay . Save a dato organization is doing their part. Please help them in their encomiable mission. Civilizations demonstrate their intelligence by the way they treat the animals. Thanks!
2391	Por favor dejen a los gatitos vivir en el Viejo San Juan. Son vidas inocentes y estan siendo atendidos por una bella organizacion a la que muchos de nosotros ciudadanos de Puerto Rico ayudamos. Esos gatitos merecen vivir en paz en el lugar donde siempre han estado y siempre han sido cuidados.
2392	Pueden emitir una castración y vacunación masiva para todos. Esos gatos han estado ahí por años, aún se los sacan, van a volver a estar, si todos los días hay un idiota que abandona a un ser indefenso. Por el área hay peste a orina humana, porque no poner un baño portátil o algo así? Eso dá más vergüenza que miles de gato paseándose y matando ratones...que son el verdadero peligro.
2393	Hi, I love animals they are part important in our lives. That specific area where the cats are is their home their environment they didn't put anyone in danger let them please stay. There's so much hate and danger outside for this animals let them live and we as humans shares the spaces with them.
2394	Estos animalitos están bien cuidados. Liberan a San Juan de las pestes como las ratas. Son amorosos y agradecidos. No hay razón alguna para removerlos. Por favor, reconsideren está idea.
2395	No estoy de acuerdo con el proyecto. Quiero a Los Gatos fell viejo San Juan vivos.
2396	The organization Save a Gato is taking care of the colonies and are responsible people. Their program works . Their adoption and TNR rate proves this is a solution. The San Juan cats are already something people look forward to see. Please keep them, help them ...!!!
2397	Please don't remove the cats. Instead use the money to promte a more intense TNR to all the cats in the area. I know by firsthand that Save a Gato is doing their best in controlling the cat population but sometimes is not enough. If people still drop cats in the area the population will keep growing. The care for our animals is something that needs to be reinforced. All the job cannot be done by the rescue organizations. The goverment plays an important role and they are doing nothing. Removing the cats (and probably kill them) is the easiest way to "solve" the problem, but it is not. It takes a real commitment and responsibility to work a plan that will help all involved. Please do not remove the cats and work together with the goverment and the community to solve this issue.
2398	Please don't kill the cats !!! They are part of the city, they control rats and don't have blame of been abandoned. We do need help with the homeless junkies in all parks in the city and we do need help helping save a gato putting cameras so they can control the abandoning of cats. If you remove this spayed cats in a year you will have a bigger problem because people keep abandoning cats daily. What you can do is work with save a gato and control the homeless that leave needles and

Corr ID	Correspondence
	poop everywhere. Thanks
2399	Esos gatitos dan un toque especial a la belleza del viejo san juan algo unido q tenemos ,belleza mas historia ,no lo dañemos al sacar a esas inocentes creaturas q solo quieres vivir como nosotros ,recuerden q ellos vivieron mas antes q los humanos ,el mundo les pertenece a ellos no a nosotros
2400	Saludos! Quiero por medio de la presente, apoyar la iniciativa que permite que los gatos que viven en el área del Morro y el Paseo La Princesa en San Juan , Puerto Rico, permanezcan en su hábitat. Ese es su hogar, su lugar. Esos hermosos gatos son amados por todos los que aquí vivimos y también por los turistas que continuamente nos visitan. Ese es su hogar, no otro y ellos tienen su función que es muy importante. Esos gatos están vacunados, esterilizados y atendidos apropiadamente por la organización Save a gato haciendo una labor inimitable. Si remueven estos gatos de su ambiente natural o los sacrifican cosa que sería terrible...provocarían un mal mayor ya que esa área tiene restaurantes y sitios de comida en la calle, además de las personas que visitamos el lugar y llevamos nuestra propia comida ya que las ratas serían las que predominarían en el lugar trayendo con ellas enfermedades (leptospirosis), mordeduras a niños y adultos y graves consecuencias. Además de enfermedades a los humanos, la economía se afectaría inevitablemente pues quien visitaría un lugar dominado por una plaga como son las ratas y ratones? Esto ya ha pasado en otros países y estas han sido las consecuencias. Por todo lo antes expuesto, les solicito encarecidamente que dejen a los gatos de ese lugar en su lugar que es ese, no otro. Amamos los gatitos del Morro y el Paseo La Princesa y áreas aledañas. Muchas gracias por su atención!
2401	Hi I want to let you know that I adopt my two beautiful cats with save a gato . Save a gato they care a lot about their mission and they are very responsible. True giving from the heart is an expression of love . If save a gato is trying to do all that they have to respect what they are doing ,let's try to be a better word and caring for every life being and respect . Love
2402	Los Gatos tienen su rol en la naturaleza.... Porque mejor no esterilizan y los dejan vivir, tienen tanto derecho de vivir como nosotros. Además se engrandecerían como un gobierno que es empático con la naturaleza y el Medio ambiente, que bastante falta le hace mejorar su imagen delante del país que ya no le creen nada de lo que prometen y no están de acuerdo con muchas de sus ejecutorias..... la vida no siempre la mejor solución es la más fácil, que en este caso es destruir todo lo que me estorba...espero en Dios que tengan un poco de sentimientos y no los maten, por otra parte arriba en los cielos hay un Dios soberano que todo lo ve y que Ada se escapa de su justicia. Así que yo que ustedes lo pensarían mejor pq cosa mala es caer bajo la ira del Dios vivo.
2403	Estoy a favor de que los gatos permanezcan libres en San Juan porque son necesarios para la comunidad y bien atendidos. El programa de Save a Gato funciona y debe ser apoyado.
2404	Los gatos no son realengos. Quien piense así no conoce la naturaleza de estos animales. Los gatos del Paseo del Morro están saludables y son alimentados por voluntarios que no le cuestan ni un centavo al gobierno estatal ni federal. Todo lo contrario, ayudan a controlar la plaga de roedores y otros animales dañinos y peligrosos para la comunidad. Estoy absolutamente en contra de su remoción. Además, ya son un símbolo del Viejo San Juan.

Corr ID	Correspondence
2405	<p>The best way to control the cat Popular is by spay and neuter. This will create a territorial area for cats and keep other cats from invading the space. I think this is a much better long term solution that is sustainable and humane. There are many cities that are actually bringing cats in to control the rats (Chicago one of them) I believe this is a much better way to go. Rather than killing all the cats and getting more in a few years.</p> <p>Carlos</p>
2406	<p>Saludos. El sistema de TNR, es muy importante para controlar la población de gatos. Eso se realiza en las organizaciones de protección de animales. Sin embargo, el países como Japón, Korea y en Europa (como Grecia), hay lugares turísticos en donde los gatitos son una atracción. Los visitantes pueden interactuar con los mismos y tomarse fotos. Estos las suben a las redes sociales, y llama la atención de que la entidad es una de los derechos de los animales. No podemos olvidar el pasado, donde la peste bubónica arrasó con los humanos. Los gatos ayudan al control de los roedores, ya que éstos contienen pulgas y bacterias. ¡Bendiciones! Sinceramente,</p>
2407	<p>Estoy a favor de que los gatos del Viejo San Juan permanezcan donde están, que hayan esterilización y vacunación de los mismos para mantener un control de la población gatuna. Estoy en contra de que los capturen y se los lleven, nos sabemos a dónde y los lelven a eutanizar. Eso no ha quedado claro que harían con ellos de parte de la propuesta del Servicio de Parques Nacionales.</p> <p>Debemos emular lo que se hace en otros lugares como Estambul - Turkia, Roma - Italia, Yprés - Bélgica, Japón & Amsterdam, entre otros. Esto seres con apreciados por los viajeros y nos ayudan a la promoción turística del país.</p> <p>I am in favor of the cats of Old San Juan remaining where they are, that they be sterilized and vaccinated to maintain control of the cat population. I am against them being captured and taken away, we don't know where, and taken to be euthanized. It has not been made clear what they would do with them as part of the National Park Service proposal.</p> <p>We must emulate what is done in other places like Istanbul - Turkey, Rome - Italy, Ypres - Belgium, Japan & Amsterdam, among others. These beings are appreciated by travelers and help us to promote tourism in the country.</p>
2408	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I travel extensively, for both work and pleasure. One of the things that I use as a measure of how is the society in the places I visit is the way they treat their animals. There are places that the situation is very sad. And those are places that I don't want to visit again. However, there are other places, where they have programs very similar to what Save a Gato does with the Cats in Old San Juan.</p> <p>Dubrovnik in Croatia, Athens, Rome, The Medinas in many of the Moroccan cities are just some examples of places where they take care of the stray animals, coexist with them and look for their wellness.</p> <p>When I walk through Old San Juan and see the many beautiful cats, that are well feed and healthy I feel nice. I wish there were no stray animals in Puerto Rico. The situation is dire, and there is a lot of suffering of innocents lives. The NGOs that work on animal welfare do a</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>monumental job, but it's not enough. Save a Gato have been able to control the population of Cats in Old San Juan, spay and neuter them, and find good homes to a lot of them.</p> <p>Instead of removing the Cats, there needs to a way to process the people that abandon them in the streets. Support these NGO organizations in their efforts. Bring back the Spayatons.</p> <p>PLEASE SAVE THE CATS!</p> <p>Thank you for your attention.</p> <p>Best Regards,</p>
2409	<p>porfavor no le quiten la vida a estos animales inocentes . No le han hecho ningún tipo de daño a nadie y en nuestra isla a la gente le importa los animales, por eso lo vamos a segur peleando hasta el final. SAVE THE GATOS</p>
2410	<p>I am deeply worried that they are using studies and information of other places and cities to make decissions about the cats of Paseo. Even heard people reffered to our beloved cats as feral cats!!! Nothing farther from the truth.... They also are saying that they annoy tourists. Nothing farther from the truth..... tourists take pictures of them and even caress them!!! And it worries me that they make such a pivotal decission with missinformation of the worst kind. Also the federals has to know that Paseo right now with the gatitos.... has NO rats or iguanas or even cockroaches because of the presence of this very tame and lovable cat population. The other harmful species will thrive eithout them. And that is going to be a real big problem!!!. Also the org Save a Gato brings students to work as volunteers helping with the cats. In a violent country like PR.... that is a wonderful example and killing living lovable animals in a cruel and wrong example. The residents community is available to work with the federales to work in any way to preserve this beloved group of cats that is the joy of residents and tourists.</p>
2411	<p>These cats been always there and give a unique experience. They dont attack or hurt anybody, in fact i been there several times and sit down with them to play and to rub them. Do not take this unique experience</p>
2412	<p>NO a sacar los gatitos de San Juan! NO a sacar los gatitos de San Juan!</p>
2413	<p>the cats are keeping the rodent population low and do not pose as a threat to anyone or anything.</p>
2414	<p>Queremos nuestros felinos en el Viejo San Juan, ellos son parte de nuestra comunidad. Nos ayudan a controlar las plagas y son de apoyo emocional cuando caminamos triste por esas calles. Si nuestros gatos son esterilizados no hay por qué deshacerse de ellos porque ya hay un control de población. Me opongo rotúndamente a que los maten porque son de soporte a los que hemos padecido depresión.</p>
2415	<p>We just went to San Juan and having all the cats around was a plus. Everyone loved them! Kids and adults would stop to pet them, myself included. San Juan is their home. Every time I go to Puerto Rico I make sure to include a stop in San Juan in my agenda just to see them. Help them thrive, don't remove them from their home!!</p>
2416	<p>Pienso que remover los gatos no sería la mejor opción. ¿Que harían con ellos después de sacarlos? San Juan se ha convertido en su hábitat. Ellos tambien se han convertido en una parte clave de lo que es San Juan. Seria sumamente injusto sacarlos. Pueden esterilizar a todos los que se puedan, y así disminuye la cantidad.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2417	No estoy de acuerdo con la eutanasia, eso no va a resolver el problema. Deben desarrollar programas de esterilización a bajo costo para detener el aumento de gatos realengos. Matarlos no resuelve el problema ya que continúan abandonando los gatos. Crear santuarios de gatos y perros serían alternativas para que las personas puedan llevarlos en vez de abandonarlos.
2418	The cats that live in El Morro and Viejo San Juan are part of our ecosystem, they are a tourist attraction, and they are very well taken care of by the organizations in the Old San Juan area. Without these cats we will have rodents all over the area like NYC and all of her animals that they help to control. They have a purpose and they do their work well. On the other hand, tourists and locals visiting the area love to take pictures with them and of them. They are part of our scenery and they belong where they live right now. What we need is not to remove them instead support financially the organizations like Save a Gato that TNR the cats and give them the care and medical help they need and control the population by spaying and neutering them. Give them the help they need to continue helping control the population in a safe and humane way. I hope that this senseless idea of removing them from El Morro gets reversed instead let the cats remain in the area they have called their home for a long time.
2419	Ya que los gatitos de San Juan no pueden hablar soy su voz para que no los saquen de su hogar. Ellos no le hacen daño a nadie y ellos están primeros que las personas que le molestan su presencia. Soy animalito inocente y no es justo que los saquen donde siempre ha sido su hogar. Apoyo 100 por ciento a la protesta que No Saquen a Los Gatitos de San Juan.
2420	Ya que los gatitos de San Juan no pueden hablar soy su voz para que no los saquen de su hogar. Ellos no le hacen daño a nadie y ellos están primeros que las personas que le molestan su presencia. Soy animalito inocente y no es justo que los saquen donde siempre ha sido su hogar. Apoyo 100 por ciento a la protesta que No Saquen a Los Gatitos de San Juan.
2421	Que dejen esos animales tranquilos que para nada molestan en el área.
2422	Tengo dos adolescentes de 15 y 13. Desde muy pequeñas la razón por la que vamos a San Juan ya que vivimos en Cabo Rojo es para ir a ver los gatitos del Paseo La Princesa. Es la ilusión de no solo admirar la belleza del lugar y del Paseo, sino también hacer algo más en ese lugar. Podemos ir 100 veces y nos ilusiona como si fuera nuestra primera vez el ir a ver los gatitos. De otra manera ya mis hijas desde pequeñas no hubieran tenido ningún otro motivo para caminarlo. Tener ese contacto con la naturaleza, poder ver, jugar, acariciar los gatitos es lo mejor que a ellas le puede pasar. Entiendo que no hay una razón justificada para remover los felinos ya que donde habitan no le hacen daño a nadie y mucho menos afectan.
2423	The program works. Control the population. If you remove the program you will end up with a big population of unhealthy cats.
2424	Me parece una tragedia que quieran eliminar a los gatos del Viejo San Juan. Ellos no afectan para nada a la comunidad. Al contrario, nos brindan alegría y nos dan una experiencia bonita. Además, los gatos están controlados y bien cuidados gracias a entidades como Save a Gato. La realidad es que esta medida es absurda, asquerosa e insensible. Cómo se atreven a hacerle daño a animales indefensos. Es una falta de sentido y ética, respeten la vida de los gatos.
2425	Me opongo fuertemente al removido de los gatos. Ese es su hogar y mucha gente se dedica a que estos felinos sean vacunados, operados y que tengan oportunidad de adopción. Los que hacen las cosas mal son los dueños que vienen y ABANDONAN a sus gatos. El propósito de Save A Gato no es para tomar los animales de dueños que ya no pueden con ellos, ellos se encargan de rehabilitar gatos callejeros a que puedan tener una oportunidad de ser adoptados con todas sus vacunas y operación para que no se procreen más.

Corr ID	Correspondence
2426	It's cruel to remove the cats. There has been years of hard work to help them. They are not damaging anything. Unless you create another plan and area for them, you know that the company in charge will take all those beautiful cats to a shelter for killing them. Your act is not showing humanity or compassion for those animals that doesn't hurt anyone. They should stay there. The agency is working in benefit of money and people of influence. You cannot assure what will do the company you will contract. This is a crime!
2427	Help to sterilize the cats that live in the area. Provide support to maintain Save a gato in the area. Instead of killing the cats help the adoption process in order to reduce the population of cats.
2428	We love the cats. They are so friendly. My wife and I visit Old San Juan every weekend to say hi to the cats and often do some shopping while we are there. Please do not remove them.
2429	We love visiting and this is the highlight to our trips. Please do not remove these cats, they are colonies which becomes family. Cats will try to return to their homes once removed and this creates risk for their survival.
2430	Solo deben esterilizarlos a todos y soltarlos nuevamente al mismo medio ambiente que solian estar. De sacar estos gatos regresaran otros nuevos al area e igual se seguiran reproduciendo.
2431	Favor de haya soluciones que beneficien a todos principalmente a los felinos que no tiene culpa de la mala administración de nro gobierno en relación a este tema gracias a todos los voluntarios que hacen la diferencia Continuenos aunando esfuerzos para defender la vida Necesitamos más leyes que protejan a los animales de tanto maltrato
2432	En ves de estar removiendo Los Gatos deberían enfocarse en la basura y la peste a orín humano qué hay en todas las calles adicional a los deambulantes que duermen en casa esquina y afean el área, ah y arreglar los hoyos en los adoquines
2433	<p>Realmente pienso que es una barbaridad "poner a dormir" a los gatos, sobre todo siendo animales que no solo llevan ahí muchísimo tiempo y es su hogar, si no que también están bajo el cuidado de Save a gato, voluntarios y muchos residentes de San Juan.</p> <p>Si esto se lleva a cabo habrá otras consecuencias, como por ejemplo plagas de ratas y estoy segura que como el Gobierno no se hace cargo de este problema esterilizando y manteniendo control de los animales con chips más haciendo responsable al pueblo poniendo sanciones por abandonar a sus animales; esto no va a resolver absolutamente nada porque el problema es nacional y acabaran regresando. Entonces que harán? Irán eliminando pueblo por pueblo a gatos y perros de la calle y abandonados? Porque sacar unos de Viejo San Juan no es permanente.</p> <p>Si se controlara la población de animales, se sancionara a la gente que abandona, hubiese control de como tiene la gente a sus animales y los municipios tuvieran facilidades gratis para que todos los animales estuvieran sanos y atendidos podríamos vivir en armonía y civilizadamente.</p> <p>Este proceso no es solo cruel e inhumano, si no que deja mucho que decir de un país que no sabe gestionar algo tan básico, dejándonos ver como barbaros y retrógrados.</p> <p>Espero piensen bien en las consecuencias que esto traerá, porque las va a traer y no van a ser bonitas. Como siempre, pongamos "un parcho" al problema.</p>
2434	I am against the removal of the cats from Paseo del Morro. They are cared for by compassionate rescue groups like Save a Gato. I have been to Old San Juan twice for vacation and I purposefully sought out seeing and touring the area just to see the cats. Please don't kill the colonies or remove them.
2435	<p>Saludos</p> <p>Referente al traslado de los gatos de esa zona es una cosa que no esta bien hacer, ese es su</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	hogar, antes había un refugio solo para gatos y que ahora permaneces cerrado, se podría usar la casa rosa que ya no funciona desde hace años que se encuentra en la entrada y usarla como refugio para ellos y conseguir voluntarios que quieran bregar con eso. Esos gatos ya son parte de la historia de san juan, muchas personas van a verlos y algunos consiguen ser adoptados.
2436	Please let the cats be... it is such a joy to see them. It is always the highlight of my trips to Old San Juan to go out outside the walled area and see the sweet kittys. I will be there again in 2023 and I will be very sad if I don't get to see them. Please save the cats of San Juan and let them co exist.
2437	Debemos estar agradecidos por los esfuerzos de la organizacion Save a Gato. Llevan 18 años encargandose de la alimentacion, cuidado veterinario y esterlizacion de los gatos del Morro. La poblacion general de estos gatos ha sido esterilizada y es porque llegan gatos de otras areas que tienen que seguir con el programa de Trap Neuter Release (TNR). TNR es el protocolo recomendado que se ha demostrado es el mas efectivo por organizaciones veterinarias en EU, PR y el mundo para el control efectivo de las poblaciones de gatos ferales. Continuar con el programa de TNR de Save a Gato es la forma en que se debe manejar la poblacion de gatos de El Morro.
2438	No remover los gatos 🐱
2439	This cats are part of San Juan. They dont borher. They have the city out of rat. THE CATS ARE LOVING. THE TOURIST LOVE IT. DO NOT REMOVE THE CATS. The Save a gato groul feed ans take care of them.
2440	Use the money to spay and neuter them, instead of killing them.
2441	No remover gatitos del Morro que han estado a cargo de la Fundación Save a Gato durante muchos años. En cambio el Gobierno debería proveer herramientas para esta y otras Fundaciones para esterilizar tanto a gatos como a perros callejeros y mantenerlos en un ambiente seguro con su debido protocolo de vacunación, entre otras cosas. Tanto los residentes del VS como turistas que visitan la Isla, les parece encantador poder ver tantos gatitos juntos que no le hacen daño a nadie y que están bien cuidados y en adición los alimentan. Por último el remover los gatos sería un error, ya que con el tiempo llegarían otros, además ayudan al control de plagas y ratas en el área. No deberían removerlos solo por un capricho de ciertas entidades.
2442	Los gatos son necesarios para evitar que se propaguen las ratas. Esos gatos están vacunados yopeados para no procrearse.
2443	El gobierno puede establecer programas de adopcion. Por favor no sacrifiquen los animalitos.
2444	NOT in favor of the removal of cats that have called home in Old San Juan. There are better alternatives! Come to agreements with the Organization Save a Gato in Old San Juan I am sure they will know of better ways. PLEASE don't remove the cats!
2445	Los gatos son parte de la cultura y tienen todo el derecho de permanecer en nuestra ciudad capital.
2446	Why now??? The cats have been there for many years. They are doing your job keeping rodent population under control. They have been cared for many years by a non-profit Animal Welfare organizations They are given food & water daily and if sick they receive medications. Females are caught and spayed so that the population does not reproduce (of course some are feral and takes awhile to trap them for the Vet visit. These cats have become somewhat of a tourist attraction like those in Rome at the Coliseum. You are unfairly pronouncing a death sentence upon them. Work with organizations interested in offering assistance and we will do our best to ensure numbers are reduced in an humane manner. Provide via donation to our organizations, the funds you have budgeted for their removal. Instead of extremely negative public relations and bad press coverag, you will

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>receive praise</p> <p>It is our hope that you will meet representatives of non-profit Animal Rescue organizations and together we can formulate and begin implementation of a plan that meets needs of the majority. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
2447	<p>Is there a program to spay and neuter some of the cats to help with over crowding?</p>
2448	<p>The cats are a wonderful part of visiting, save a Gato does a great job of caring for them and providing valuable information. Anytime I have been there visitors have loved seeing the and watching them play, sun on the rocks, etc. Please leave the cats.</p>
2449	<p>Those are our cats , we love them . They mamtein the balance of the nature so protects OldSan Juan from rats plagues . Help them !! Not hurt them!!</p>
2450	<p>They have been there for many years and it would be bad for them to have to get used to another place. They know where to hide if there is danger. They already learned to survive in that place. Out of pity, do not take them out, let us be in solidarity with them who did not ask to come into this world. They are there by some human that I did not sterilize or care for them.</p>
2451	<p>Cats in Old San Juan and El Morro are an emblematic sight of the city. People go there to see and enjoy the sight. The cats are well taken care of by organization Save a Gato and by varios residents if the City. I want the cats to stay in old San Juan and el Morro. They present no danger to anyone. They keep the area free of rats. The cats are a joy to everyone. Let the cats stay in old San Juan and el Morro.</p>
2452	<p>Killing them is not an option. TNR is te only solution and make the goverment to punish the people who abandon them in the streets. Also the majority of the cats there are already spayed.</p>
2453	<p>NO MATAR A LOS GATOS. TENEMOS QUE APRENDER A VIVIR CON ELLOS EN LA CALLE. LA CULPA NO ES DE ELLOS, ES DEL SER HUMANO QUE LOS ABANDONÓ. NO, ME OPONGO A LA MATAZAN DE LOS GATOS.</p>
2454	<p>The cats of El Morro not only provide a positive community service but also provide community engagement and bring tourists to the area. The cats keep the areas free or rats and other vermin, keeping the city safer for residents and tourists alike. Additionally, residents and tourists care for the cats and are personally invested in their care and upkeep. I visited Puerto Rico in 2017, the year prior to the major hurricanes. I had briefly read about the cats of Old San Juan online and made it a point to visit the area and the cats during my trip to the island. I spent time and money in the area, dining, touring the fort, and shopping for souvenirs. I took many photos of the cats near El Morro where I met several volunteers from Save a Gato. They educated me on their program for cat management, being familiar with TNR, I was impressed. Since my visit I have followed the organization as well as financially supported them. I followed closely during hurricanes and other times for the status of the cats. My parents recall the cats from their visits to San Juan and nearly everyone that I have spoken to remembers the cats as a highlight of their trip. Please keep these valuable cats in the only home they've ever known.</p>
2455	<p>These cats are not hurting anyone. I recommend getting them all fixed and then allowing them to live out their life in peace.</p>
2456	<p>I think that what nacional Parks wants to do its irracional, unfair and falls into mistral category.</p> <p>These por animals deserve respect, they dont harm anyone , let them in peace , why do you want to kill them??? I cant understand this insane !!</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2457	Please leave the cats where they are , the stress of relocation and what I'm guessing is most will eventually be euthanized just doesn't seem morally right . Those cats aren't hurting anyone , many are friendly and enjoy greeting guests . I spent time there several months ago and it was the highlight of my trip as a cat lover . It is a great natural habitat for them with plenty of mice and fish to eat . Why must people take away their homeIt just breaks my heart .
2458	Son vidas que no se pueden asesinar, tienen derecho a la vida. No hay derecho de acabar con la creación de Dios. Dios los perdone 🙏
2459	The community in general, and specific Old San Juan residents, are truly concern with the process of the current vision of the National Park Service to use a questionable method of controlling the cat population in the historic site. The big question is: why now? And the other one: who's behind this? Because, for decades the cat colonies have been living in Old San Juan without the interference of any governmental departament or federal services. People from the community have been the ones who, without any support or help from the central government, have been taking control over the cat population in a non violent and respectful of life way. As a person who works with cats and as cat activist myself, I'm absolutely opposed to a massive killing method to control the cat colony. If there's any possible solution to the problem, it MUST involve the people who have been taking care of those sentient creatures for decades, their voces and opinions MUST be heard and taken in consideration. I know that the central government is mediocre to the core and incapable to give any intelligent solutions to this matter. That's why it is imperative to listen to the people who really are involved in this situation, who are the voces of the voiceless. Hope our opinions are taken in consideration with the seriousness we deserve.
2460	These cats are taken cat off by save a gato and are spayed and feed . I don't understand why they are now want to get rid of them. They help keep the mice and rat population down. We don't want the same problem that is happening in New York
2461	Deberían hacer un programa de esterilización masiva y fortalecer con mayores penas la ley de protección animal.
2462	Killing newer was and never will be a solution. The history shows the prove. No to killing political. You failed your job with the stray population control. Federal fund for stay animal population controle are payed every year
2463	<p>A quien pueda interesar.</p> <p>Por la presente deseo se le deje en la hábitat que hasta ahora los gatos están. Esos gatos son alimentados por persona con gran corazón que saca de su tiempo para ellos, cual esos gatos han sido botados por personas sin corazón. Cuando acudí en navidades pasadas a San Juan ellos estaban por varios alrededores si huir a las personas, con ruidos de petardo y ellos ahí. Se observa como los americanos los acariciaban.</p> <p>En este país hay una población de felinos olvidado en nuestra calles igual que los perros, se llama a un albergue están lleno y si tu pueblo no tiene uno no lo aceptan en otro pueblo, entiende que el gobierno debe de trabajar de implantar albergues en cada municipio de P.R. Entonces en San Juan que hay personas o un asociación que se dedica a darle comida, castrarlo y darle amor quieren sacarlo de San Juan del Morro, cuando a veces observamos cosas desagradable en esos alrededor no se quejan. Los animales son hermosos no saben cuánto animal he ayudado, pero se necesita la cooperación de nuestro gobierno que haga algo por ellos. Les pido que lo que hagan sea la mejor decisión que no afecte a los gatos, por el bienestar de ellos. Recuerde persona que llevan desde 2004 en esa tarea ayudando no le eche</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	para atrás sus sueños. Recuerda el Morro es bello y los gastos son sus adorno el americano le gusta los animales igual que al puertorriqueños.
2464	En muchas ciudades grandes del mundo consideran estos gatos como un atractivo turístico. Estos gatos del Morro son atendidos y esterilizados por esta organización maravillosa que se llama Save a Gato. Por qué el gobierno federal y el estatal no dedican su tiempo, esfuerzos y recursos a realizar campañas educativas en lugar de querer remover estos animales sabra Dios a qué lugar?
2465	<p>I have volunteered for over 20 years with various animal welfare organizations in the Northern Virginia area, including organizations that perform TNR and that advocate for TNR as the most humane and effective way to manage and ultimately reduce community cat populations.</p> <p>I strongly urge the National Park Service to continue working with Save A Gato to allow that organization to manage the community cat population at the San Juan Historic Site. I strongly oppose a "management" plan that would involve removing the community cats from this site, and I hope the National Park Service will reject any approach that involves trapping and removal of the cats. This approach would be inhumane and, equally important, I believe it is unlikely to work, given the high likelihood that additional cats will simply arrive to fill the void left by the cats that are removed.</p> <p>The proposal claims that there are several reasons why TNR has not worked to date at the San Juan Historic Site, including the inability to sterilize a sufficient proportion of the cat population and the introduction of new cats into the population through abandonment, among other causes. If this is the case, I urge the National Park Service to devote its resources to working with Save A Gato and other stakeholders to address these issues, in order to give TNR the best possible chance for success at this location.</p>
2466	Please let the Save a Gato cats where they have been all these years!!!
2467	Good afternoon. For the life of me, I cannot imagine a positive reason to remove the cats other than to appease haters. We vacation in Puerto Rico annually and a prime reason for our visit is to enjoy the fort and its lovely cats. Seeing them brings joy to so many! What I see is this is a similar situation we face here in the Rocky Mountains: bears were fed routinely as a means of attracting people. Now they are killed after having been habituated for generations. The cats are no longer needed so the call to eradicate them is a similar fate to all things man and his government no longer see a need for. Didn't we learn anything with the buffalo and American Indians? Let's not lose this natural sanctuary for cats whose only fault is the careless acts of men who don't want to "pay that much" to have them spayed or neutered! Please don't remove the cats!
2468	Los gatos no tienen culpa de que los humanos no sean responsable y el gobierno de este país no sirva
2469	I love the cats. I visit often and first stop the walk to see the cats. This is their home. They are being cared for and aren't bothering anyone.
2470	<p>Es importante recordarle a los políticos que los gatitos del paseo son parte esencial del encanto del Viejo San Juan. Durante décadas se ha establecido un control poblacional con TNR. La población de roedores se controla de manera natural con los gatos.</p> <p>No sabemos quienes son los "genios" promotores de la idea de matar gatitos, pero demuestran la pobre sensibilidad y respeto por especies y vida.</p> <p>Sugerimos un apoyo económico para ampliar esfuerzos con iniciativa de TNR y adopciones.</p> <p>Es increíble que el gobierno Federal NO TENGA IDEAS Y SE NIEGUE A BRINDAR</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>RECURSOS. UN PAÍS PODEROSO SIN SENSIBILIDAD, deberían aprender de otros países. Estados Unidos, la gran nación, ¿sin respeto hacia los animalitos?...</p>
2471	<p>The issue of the stray cats in that area will not be resolved by the cats removal. Stronger penalties and enforcement and digital surveillance will need to be implemented. People will still abandon cats in the area in the hopes activists will pick up their slack. Penalties should be implemented and enforced if any improvement is expected. The removal of the cats will only be a temporary solution, not to mention, inhumane. No taxpayers money should be used for this purpose. The removal of the cats will create an opportunity for unsanitary conditions to rapidly develop and rodents pest will soon follow. Save a Gato and other animal rescue organizations cannot be the sole responsible party for controlling and managing the cat population. The government, both at the state and federal level should offer substantial support to these organizations. Also, veterinary clinics should be required to offer an amount of services to include neutering, spaying and vaccination on a monthly basis pro bono, just like other professionals are required to do in the service of vulnerable populations, in this case, cat colonies in San Juan.</p>
2472	<p>My son has been accompanying me to volunteer at SAG since he was 5 years. It is with great excitement that he patiently waits for our Sunday to visit and help the cats. He is an expert at shredding newspapers that will eventually fill litter boxes. He also helps to fill up the dry food containers. And the job he loves the most - as you may have guessed, petting the cats both in and out of cages. I have drawings of his favorite cat, Marley, one of the Old San Juan cats that was neutered by SAG and always showed up to get some love. Marley was thankfully adopted. The work we do at SAG is a labor of love. It is hard work but so fulfilling. I can say almost every Sunday I am there, tourists stop by asking about the work that is being done and commending the organization. There are no complaints about the cats. In fact, people enjoy the cats' presence.</p> <p>Please don't take away our cats! SAG mission is crucial and without it in Old San Juan there would even be a larger population of strays. Cats will always come back. Why not support an organization that cares for them and at the same time is stopping the overpopulation situation by neutering and releasing.</p> <p>How am I going to explain to my son that the same government for which I work for, who has taken an oath to serve and protect, wants to remove the cats and possibly euthanize them? How is this even a possibility? Our hearts break just with the thought of it.</p> <p>Please put personal agendas to the side and do what is right, ethical and humane. Allow SAG to continue its mission in Old San Juan by saving cats!</p> <p>Thank you</p>
2473	<p>I remember when this issue first arose over 20 years and the federal government wanted to terminate all the cats. Activists and residents of OSJ protested and an agreement was made since letting the cats live there outweighed the euthanization. I recommend that a better solution now, instead of spending taxpayer's money to remove these cats (study show that a new colony will quickly form), education to the public should be made to not abandon cats at the site. If citizens wouldn't abandon cats as a way of "giving them a better life"; cats in OSJ would be very well controlled. The actual problem should be addressed and not this temporary solution to try to fix a problem.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2474	Por favor respeto a la vida animal. Ellos son parte de nuestro ecosistema.
2475	Removing the cats from the el paseo sanctuary will not improve the tourist experience. A lot of tourists are amazed by the fact that there is such a secret garden where human being and wild animals can coexist in such a harmonious way, which is a big theme in today's society. The existence of such a sanctuary greatly improves the image of Puerto Rico to the rest of the world. For those who have visited the site and those who know about this place, the thought of those cats being removed from their home and sanctuary or even losing their lives because of that will completely dishearten them and vastly negatively impact Puerto Rico's image. Puerto Rico's tourism economy will also be negatively impacted because of that.
2476	Los gatos están esterilizados no hacen daño , podrían tener en esa área un moderador explicando lo q sucede cuando a abandonas un animal especialmente a los gatos y el trabajo q hace un rescatista. Explicarles q si se afopta es una responsabilidad para toda la vida. Desarrollen la educación. Improvisada al aire libre en vivo y entretenida. La gente pasa y les sonríen Ellos traen alegriexplicando ce falta. También pueden colocar un boletín exolicando pq estan ahí y como hacen los rescatistas para evitar menos animales en las calles sin tener q sacrificarlo. Gracias pero no los saquen.
2477	Please allow the cats to stay in their rightful home in the park. The group Save a Gato does a wonderful job taking care of the cat community there! The cats deserve to live a happy life in the park. They also serve a practical purpose of keeping rats and mice at bay. Thank you,
2478	The cat have been living in that place for decades. The are part of Old San Juan. The protect us from rats, roaches and other plagues. A lot people take care of these cats. Save a Gato and hundreds of volunteers help for the well being of the cats. But now, comes some people, who clearly doesn't like animals, to go against something that's been working perfectly fine for decades. Please, let the cats live in their home. A lot of tourists comes to PR and adopted some of these cats. Leave the cats alone. There are so many important things that needs to be done instead of go and disrupt the cats colony of Old San Juan. Go do your job instead of killing cats.
2479	I visited Puerto Rico in 2012, among everything else, the experience at the cats trail is the most impressive. I was completely amazed by the kind hearted Puerto Rican people, they way they respect the nature, and the ability of them to maintain such a place which is the sanctuary for cats and people! To remove the cats to "improve tourists experience" is the most ridiculous thing that I can think of! And I AM the tourist! If you really want to remove the cats, please do not use "improving tourists experience" as the reason, the cats don't bother people at all, all they do is to improve the tourist experience for those who love cats, and to stay away for those who don't like cats.
2480	Good day! Save a Gato does a great job taking care of the Old San Juan cats, they spay, vaccinate, feed and all that with donations. They have been helping the community for years. If they had not done all they do, the amounts of cats would be much more and taking the cats out is not the solution. There is no place to take those cats and it would be a mass killing if they are taking out, because no shelter or entity has the capacity to take them. Additionally it would create a vacuum effect and new not spayed cats will acupuntor the spaces and it will become a cycle of taking cats out (killing). Please NPS consider working with Save a Gato, helping with the people that leave cats in the area (helping control that) and leaving TNR cats, they help the community and they are living being that deserve to life. Please
2481	Do not remove these cats. They are beautiful creatures that deserve to live here just as much as everyone else. We travel just to see them. I'm sure tourism will be affected heavily if these

Corr ID	Correspondence
	cats are removed. It is such a unique experience and location that cannot be found anywhere else in the world.
2482	At this point it's a cat factory! Save a Gato is always pushing kittens to adopt, if TNR really worked there shouldn't be any kittens! It won't be long before Save a Gato starts demanding government money like every TNR group has. I don't want my taxes funding inefficient programs! I live in Florida and I see cats every day they are not anything special. Everyone here practices TNR but the only thing they do is feed the damn cats. Now we have cats everywhere and no wildlife! I don't own any cats but I got 20 wandering around my home right now screwing each other every night. FFS the roads I travel are lined with dead cats. And how the hell is letting cats roam until they get hit by a car and die humane?!?! This TNR program is a BS cover story for old ladies to feed cats. Hire a pest removal company to remove all the flea riddled cats and you will get real results!
2483	The cat colony in Old San Juan does not pose a threat. They are an already established colony and are attended and cared for by non-profit entities that have their protocols up to date. They are friendly with the people who pass through the area. This project that intends to kill the colony should not be executed. According to ensure well-being and where is empathy and humanity?
2484	Instead of killing all of these innocent animals, you should help out and join forces with entities such as Save a Sato. These people lookout for the welfare of these animals, feeding them, spay them and work with controlling their population. This issue of out of control population is being driven mainly by the lack of low cost or free spaying campaigns (which existed and since a few years back they have removed). By helping organizations like Save a Sato you can help with the neutering of this animals, welfare and adoption, thus lowering their population concentration in Old San Juan.
2485	Please don't take their home away they are loved by to many and I believe you'd lose a lot of tourists since so many including myself go there just to see the cats
2486	I heard from my friend about this plan and feel so shocked. Who would think those kitty would affect tourism? Have they ever actually been there? Have they even seen those cats? I was there and felt the exact contrary. The sanctuary is one of the highlights of the park. They attract tourists, not pushing them away! Please, leave those poor cats alone, and don't let bureaucrats get the way again!
2487	En total desacuerdo con esta propuesta. Los gatos del área de Viejo San Juan están bien alimentados, esterilizados y cuidados por organizaciones sin fines de lucro como Save a Gato que han aunado esfuerzos por controlar las colonias. Se deben dejar los gatitos libres en el área tal y como ocurre en el presente. El dinero que propogan utilizar con este proyecto que no favorezco, debería usarse para el bienestar y armonía de esos gatitos hermosos y cariñosos que complementan el paisaje y la experiencia de visitar Viejo San Juan.
2488	Please leave the cats of Paseo del Morro just where they are. They are part of the city. They are spayed and neutered and are no plague at all. Plague of mice and rats and illness you will bring to old San Juan if you remove these cats. Is this what you want? Please be civilized like the Romans and leave these cats alone.
2489	I am against this measure. Neither federal nor state government has the right to end these animals' lives. This is a misuse of taxpayer dollars. No action is the appropriate course of action.
2490	To whom concern, I totally disagree with the removal of cats from the National Park in San Juan PR and the surrounding areas. Most of the cats are neutered and are healthy. I trust on spaying to control colonies. Indeed, this is the best way to control population. If you remove the cats already in the are-, you will have the double the next week because of the effect of

Corr ID	Correspondence
	empty nest. It is time to do the right thing instead of the easiest thing. It's time to act with responsibility with the animals in the street. Make the difference for the sake of these cats, please.
2491	A quien pueda interezar.Mis comentarios son a favor de que los gatos que allí residen se les trate de la mejor manera,con respeto,amor ya que nosotros los seres humanos estamos llamados a cuidar de todo animal, de la naturaleza y sus habitantes y no ser dañados o perjudicados.Si es posible que se queden en donde estan que así sea...gracias ♥
2492	Los gatos de San juan no son estorbo para nadie lo que tienen que hacer es ayudar a las personas de save a gato con su alimentación y esterilizacion maxiva en vez de sacarlos esa no es la solucion y cuando vienen turistas los acarician y les tiran fotos y al ellos estar no hay plagas de ratas es que no hay justificacion alguna para sacarlos
2493	Los gatos de San juan no son estorbo para nadie lo que tienen que hacer es ayudar a las personas de save a gato con su alimentación y esterilizacion maxiva en vez de sacarlos esa no es la solucion y cuando vienen turistas los acarician y les tiran fotos y al ellos estar no hay plagas de ratas es que no hay justificacion alguna para sacarlos
2494	<p>The situation is one that can generate strong, and sometimes passionate response, given the creatures involved.</p> <p>However, it is clear , at least to many of us who have observed such situations in local neighborhoods elsewhere, the presence of ranging cats can have huge impact on other species.</p> <p>Interaction with these beloved feline creatures can be problematic when disease is present, and aggressive behavior occurs.</p> <p>The proposal as suggested would be a humane response to a very difficult problem.</p> <p>The plan does need to have some fuller explanation of the management of cats returned to site of entrapment, and in receipt of feeding, where certainly new arrivals would join this returned population, and any food source is a food source and an attraction. the arrival of a greater rodent presence also brings disease hazards as seen elsewhere in NPS.</p> <p>A fuller analysis of how the plan would function without creating new problems is necessary.</p> <p>Any action would also need a very skilled PR component to deter public misinformation that might spread rapidly.</p>
2495	Save a gato has been doing TNR for 17 years and the cat population grew to 200 cats instead of shrinking! This TNR program will never reduce the cat population. I can only imagine how much more the cat population will grow if allowed to continue for another 17 years. A removal agency should be in charge of reducing the cat population. Besides, TNR only helps the cats. Birds are not helped at all when cats are sterilized and released. Cats will still hunt the birds neutered or not. I have seen terrible injuries inflicted on the birds by TNR'd cats. Legs bitten off, whole wings torn off, bones shattered, skin ripped from stomachs exposing organs, birds with puncture wounds dying from infection caused by cat's bacteria filled mouths. I could go on and on about the pain cats inflict on birds. Let's not forget that cats kill for fun. Cats have a driven instinct to kill, and a cat will kill even when full of cat food. If we truly cared about the birds then we would not be releasing cats into their last bit of sanctuary.

Corr ID	Correspondence
2496	<p>I insist that you immediately hire a professional removal agency. The cat removal efforts are being railed against by cat advocates, firing off online campaigns against the natural park (Dow). The longer you wait to remove these cats, the harder it will be to overcome the emotionally fierce backlash from the misinformed cat-feeding crowd.</p> <p>Tourists are already sharing their cat-feeding experiences far and wide on their social media accounts. These tourists are clearly not informed about ecology and have already forgotten that the so-called Disney World for cats is in fact a bird sanctuary.</p> <p>The cats are also a threat to the island marble butterfly, a critically endangered species found only at the San Juan National Historic Site (Turner). Cats depredate a wide range of species including birds, reptiles, small mammals, amphibians, and insects. Which puts the island marble butterfly at risk. The park already has tourists stomping through the rare butterfly habitat, and unfortunately, more tourists feeding cats means more cats. Please don't let the emotions of tourists get in the way of the park's ecosystem!</p> <p>Works Cited</p> <p>Dow, Carrie. "Puerto Rico's Save a Gato Protects Old San Juan's Living History - Its Cats." What's Pawsitive, What's Pawsitive, 23 July 2022, https://www.whatspawsitive.org/home/2022/7/22/puerto-ricos-save-a-gato-protects-old-san-juans-living-history.</p> <p>Turner, Nicholas. "Will This Rare Butterfly Found Only on San Juan Island Go Extinct?" Yakima Herald-Republic, TownNews.com, 14 Nov. 2022, https://www.yakimaherald.com/explore_yakima/adventures/will-this-rare-butterfly-found-only-on-san-juan-island-go-extinct/article_08e3a1d0-b493-5c52-b57f-8e9b94362034.html.</p>
2497	<p>Oposición de Save a Gato al "Plan de manejo de gatos realengos", del Servicio Nacional de Parques</p> <p>Introducción</p> <p>La histórica colonia de gatos que reside en el Viejo San Juan precede por mucho la construcción del Paseo del Morro y, muchos aseguran, que precede también la presencia del gobierno estadounidense en la Isla.</p> <p>Save a Gato por lo menos puede asegurar lo primero. El origen de nuestra organización se debe precisamente a la labor que durante muchos años llevaron a cabo algunos vecinos del Viejo San Juan que se encargaban de alimentar y esterilizar como podían a los gatos que residían en las piedras que cubrían el área donde ahora se encuentra el Paseo del Morro.</p> <p>Desde el inicio de las obras del Paseo, el tema de la presencia de los gatos ha sido uno delicado que, hasta el momento, se había manejado con una constante comunicación y consideración por las partes involucradas. En esta ocasión, el Servicio Nacional de Parques entabló un proceso que propone la "remoción" de los gatos de esta área sin ninguna comunicación con la organización que los atiende y con quien la agencia ha sostenido varios acuerdos a través de los años.</p> <p>Independientemente de la manera indecorosa en que se inició este proceso, nos encontramos</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>ante un "Plan de manejo de gatos realengos" publicado por el Servicio Nacional de Parques que propone "remover" a los gatos del área y que justifica esta propuesta con diversas conclusiones que, a lo menos, son infundadas y, a lo más, irresponsables. Quienes conocemos de cerca el problema de la sobrepoblación animal en Puerto Rico, sabemos que "remover" significa eutanazar y que la "remoción" de una colonia manejada es la llegada de otros gatos no esterilizados al área.</p> <p>Como una organización que lleva cerca de dos décadas trabajando con la situación de la sobrepoblación de gatos y, en específico, en el área del Viejo San Juan, nuestra posición es que hay alternativas efectivas para atender esta situación sin llegar a la "remoción", que no es una solución a largo plazo.</p> <p>Coincidimos en que el área del Paseo del Morro no es el lugar ideal para un animal doméstico como los gatos. Nuestra postura como organización es que los gatos deben vivir dentro del hogar para que gocen de una vida larga y saludable. No obstante, la realidad es otra y, para la gran mayoría de los gatos del Paseo, la alternativa sería la muerte. En Puerto Rico no hay un lugar para trasladarlos ni nadie dispuesto a brindarles los cuidados adecuados, por lo que sacarlos de su hogar sería sentenciarlos a morir. La adopción tampoco es una opción viable. La gran mayoría de los gatos del Paseo son sociables pero no son adoptables. Los que sí lo son se han ido poniendo en adopción o se han enviado a los Estados Unidos tanto a otras organizaciones que los ponen en adopción o directamente a turistas que los han conocido al caminar por el Paseo y deciden adoptarlos. Claro está, esto no quiere decir que tanto sus condiciones de vida como la experiencia de los visitantes no pueda mejorar.</p> <p>Soluciones propuestas</p> <p>El Plan propuesto hasta el momento por el Servicio Nacional de Parques propone dos posibles cursos de acción. El de "no acción", que no alteraría la situación actual, y la "acción propuesta", que conllevaría la "remoción" de los gatos. Este segundo curso de acción levanta más interrogantes que las respuestas que brinda. La principal es, ¿qué ocurrirá con los gatos una vez sean capturados y removidos del área?, ¿qué implica la monitoría para asegurar la efectividad del plan a largo plazo?</p> <p>Para quienes conocemos sobre la situación y el comportamiento de los gatos, esto significa que los gatos capturados serán eutanizados y que el Servicio Nacional de Parques continuará capturando y eutanizando a los gatos que oseen pisar su jurisdicción de ahí en adelante. Aunque este sea el curso de acción que determinen tomar, no representa una solución efectiva ni a largo plazo porque nuevos gatos se moverán al lugar que dejaron libre los anteriores. A este fenómeno observado y estudiado alrededor del mundo se le conoce como el efecto vacío. El problema yace en que los nuevos residentes no estarán esterilizados y vacunados como lo están los actuales y la situación puede salirse de control muy rápido.</p> <p>Por esto es que el programa del TNR (trap, neuter, return), como se le conoce en inglés al atrapar, esterilizar y retornar a esos gatos al lugar donde se atraparon es la manera que ha demostrado ser más efectiva, precisamente en lugares abiertos y públicos como lo es el Paseo del Morro. Aquí lo importante para el éxito de este método son dos elementos. El primero es que se practique masivamente. Save a Gato consistentemente atrapa y esteriliza gatos en el Paseo del Morro.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Esta es una labor sumamente difícil, no tan sólo porque atrapar a ciertos gatos en específico en un lugar tan inaccesible requiere de mucha destreza, pero además porque esto hay que hacerlo durante la madrugada, que son las horas en que los gatos más escurridizos se atreven a salir de sus guaridas. La planificación que esta actividad conlleva es inmensa pues requiere que un grupo de al menos 3 o 4 voluntarios estén en el Paseo antes de las 5 de la mañana, que luego de estar 4 horas poniendo trampas en lugares estratégicos y de difícil acceso, se queden a realizar las labores habituales de limpieza y alimentación que no se hicieron en el turno regular para que los gatos estuvieran hambrientos y tener una mayor probabilidad de éxito. Luego hay que coordinar con las citas de esterilización y llevar a esos gatos al veterinario en la mañana del día siguiente, recogerlos en la tarde, alimentarlos aún dentro de las trampas y soltarlos al otro día. Esto sin tomar en cuenta que cada trampa cuesta más de \$100 y las esterilizaciones en clínicas veterinarias privadas también. Es una labor titánica cuando se realiza sin apoyo pero es efectiva si se lleva a cabo con regularidad.</p> <p>El segundo elemento para asegurar el éxito del TNR es que se evite la entrada de gatos sin esterilizar al área que se está controlando. El Servicio Nacional de Parques menciona el abandono de animales como una de las razones que impiden el éxito del TNR y tienen razón. Lo que no aceptan es su responsabilidad en la falta de control a este abandono. Hace varios años que no hay oficiales de seguridad frente a la entrada del Paseo del Morro. Esto, sumado a la crisis económica, los huracanes y demás desastres naturales, y el cierre parcial o permanente el Centro de Control de Animales del Municipio de San Juan, son los elementos que han contribuido a que el Viejo San Juan y el Paseo del Morro se hayan convertido en el destino de los gatos abandonados. No se puede pretender adjudicar la responsabilidad de los abandonos a quienes alimentan y cuidan de los gatos. Esto es una obligación que las autoridades federales, estatales y municipales no están cumpliendo. El abandono de una pareja de gatos sin esterilizar contrarresta el efecto de reducción en la colonia que pueda tener el TNR. En un clima cálido como el nuestro, una gata sin esterilizar puede tener crías hasta 4 veces durante el año. Por eso evitar el abandono es la clave para lograr la reducción de una colonia de gatos mediante el TNR.</p> <p>Desde el 2005 Save a Gato ha llegado a acuerdos con el Servicio Nacional de Parques bajo el interés común de reducir la población de gatos en el Paseo del Morro. Este acuerdo se renovó años después y en esa renovación, el Servicio Nacional de Parques se comprometió a apoyar a la organización con la adquisición de trampas y otras necesidades para facilitar la práctica del TNR en el área. Tan buen ejemplo es el Paseo del Morro como un lugar para practicar el TNR que en el verano del 2019 el Humane Society de los Estados Unidos brindó una conferencia en Puerto Rico y se llevó a cabo un taller con un experto en atrapar gatos y otros animales precisamente en el Paseo del Morro.</p> <p>Aún con todas estas dificultades, la población de la colonia de gatos del Paseo del Morro ha disminuido considerablemente desde sus inicios. El hecho de que en años recientes haya aumentado tan poco también indica que el TNR es efectivo. El problema es que no puede ser la única medida. Tiene que estar acompañada de seguridad en el área para evitar el abandono de más gatos. A través de los años se han ido reduciendo las estaciones de comida precisamente porque al haber menos gatos ya no hacen falta. Estas estaciones se movieron del lugar donde estaban a petición del Servicio Nacional de Parques para que se mantuvieran fuera de la vista del visitante. Casi ninguna estación se ve al menos que uno sepa dónde buscar. Recientemente estamos en proceso de sustituir todos los envases por unos oscuros que no interrumpen la hermosa vista que se aprecia desde allí. Este es otro proyecto que</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>conlleva un gasto con el que podríamos recibir ayuda.</p> <p>Como justificaciones al plan de remoción, el Servicio Nacional de Parques alega que tanto los gatos como las estaciones de alimento no son parte del paisaje cultural. Como mencionamos, la situación de los comederos se está trabajando para que no se vean desde el camino. El otro punto es el del olor a heces fecales. Ciertamente hay dos áreas en donde a cierta hora del día en que hace mucho sol podría haber un olor desagradable. No obstante, esta situación tiene una solución sencilla que es poner arena en un área alejada del camino para que los gatos instintivamente la prefieran al hacer sus necesidades. La otra solución es intensificar la limpieza del área tanto por nuestros voluntarios como por los empleados de la Compañía de Turismo. Vale la pena recalcar que en varias ocasiones Save a Gato solicitó al Servicio Nacional de Parques autorización y apoyo para implementar algunas de éstas técnicas pero no hubo respuesta de parte de la entidad federal.</p> <p>Las alegaciones en cuanto a la salud de los visitantes son igualmente infundadas y no contemplan la naturaleza instintiva de los gatos a retirarse y resguardarse en lugar de atacar cuando se sienten amenazados por la cercanía de algún visitante.</p> <p>En cuanto al efecto de la presencia de los gatos en la vida silvestre del área al catalogarse como "no-nativa" nos preguntamos qué impacto pueden tener los gatos en una de las áreas más urbanizadas de nuestro país y, especialmente en el Paseo del Morro, que fue construido en el lugar que ya ocupaban los gatos desde mucho antes.</p> <p>Acerca de los planteamientos de salubridad, cabe destacar que estos gatos están vacunados y cuidados. Tan pronto vemos un gato enfermo o herido, se hacen los esfuerzos para atraparlo y llevarlo a la clínica veterinaria. Hay varios que se han tenido que eutanzar. En su mayoría por alguna condición hereditaria que no tiene tratamiento o por su avanzada edad.</p> <p>Conclusión</p> <p>Save a Gato se opone a los dos cursos de acción propuestos. Como discutimos, la propuesta de "remoción" de los gatos es inaceptable porque inevitablemente conlleva una eutanasia masiva y además es inefectiva al no contemplar la realidad del efecto vacío. Pero tampoco estamos de acuerdo con la alternativa de "no acción". El Servicio Nacional de Parques ha iniciado este proceso ahora precisamente por su falta de acción durante años. La inacción de la propia agencia federal ha contribuido a que la situación de los gatos sea la que es. La notable falta de seguridad en el área propicia los constantes abandonos de gatos y quienes estamos trabajando para controlar la situación no recibimos apoyo alguno de la agencia federal.</p> <p>Es innegable que hace falta un curso de acción, una tercera alternativa que permita un control efectivo de la colonia mientras que cada participante hace su parte para lograrlo. El Servicio Nacional de Parques no es la única entidad gubernamental que tiene la obligación de atender la situación. Este es un problema mucho más amplio y requiere la colaboración de los gobiernos municipales y estatales también.</p> <p>Mientras se va controlando la colonia de manera efectiva, la presencia de los gatos en el parque se puede tornar en un atractivo para los visitantes. Ya lo es para muchos que nos contactan directamente, comparten sus impresiones positivas por las redes sociales y hasta</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>escriben reseñas en los portales turísticos.</p> <p>La realidad es que en el Viejo San Juan habitan cientos de gatos y el Paseo del Morro es parte del Viejo San Juan. Independientemente de quién tenga la jurisdicción, la situación es una más abarcadora y las soluciones también tienen que serlo.</p> <p>El abandono por la ausencia de seguridad y la falta de acceso a esterilizaciones y vacunación gratuita o a bajo costo es la raíz de los síntomas que vemos en el paseo y en el Viejo San Juan. Cada entidad tiene que hacerse responsable de lo que le corresponde, por lo que el Servicio Nacional de Parques debe asegurar que haya seguridad e iluminación adecuada en el parque para evitar que se cometa el delito del abandono de animales en su jurisdicción.</p> <p>Save a Gato ha sostenido reuniones con el Municipio de San Juan, la Fortaleza y la Compañía de Turismo en búsqueda de soluciones viables y realmente humanitarias. Estamos en la mejor disposición de colaborar con el Servicio Nacional de Parques para atender esta situación de manera efectiva y satisfactoria sin remociones en masa de los gatos ni eutanasia. No podemos permitir que estos animales paguen con sus vidas la constante negligencia de las autoridades gubernamentales.</p>
2498	<p>Saludos,</p> <p>Como parte de la acción propuesta después de la remoción de los gatos realengos del parque en la Fase 3 es monitorear los gatos para garantizar el éxito a largo plazo. Lo cual señala la posibilidad de que el plan no sea efectivo después de sacrificar las vidas de ellos. Por esto sugiero seguir usando las herramientas que ofrece CER, aplicar Eutanasia animal lo más humanamente posible a los gatos enfermos, o con enfermedades complejas o que requieran mucho procedimiento veterinario y costos altos. Otras organizaciones sin fines de lucro pudieran unirse junto a Save a Gato para manejar dicha población. Y que Save a Gato y esas otras organizaciones mantengan buena relación y apoyo -incluyendo monetario- con el parque. Lo más probable es que se tenga que eliminar la mitad de los gatos ya que 200 gatos son muchos y el control es limitado. Por otra parte, el que las ratas consuman en sus estaciones de alimento expone grandemente a los gatos a muchas otras enfermedades. Se podría minimizar las estaciones de alimento y/o localizarlas en lugares menos recorridos por rodantes. No considero que los gatos estorben el paisaje y que esa sea una razón para eliminarlos. Usualmente los gatos se protegen de extraños y se esconden. A la persona que no le guste el paisaje que se tape los ojos y/o se retire del área. Lo mismo pasa cuando he visitado otros parques y veo caimanes, insectos o otros reptiles que no me agradan. Considero también que puede ser peligroso el contacto entre gatos y humanos, por la forma en que puedan reaccionar para atacarlos, arañarlos u morderlos y eso expone muchísimo a las personas. Por eso se debería de alertar a las personas a no acercarse a los gatos o ofrecerles alimento. Algunos felinos estarán acostumbrados a movimiento de personas en su mismo ambiente. De esa misma manera nos podemos acostumbrar a compartir el hábitat que nos provee la naturaleza con los gatos. El exceso de población y desorden entre felinos es común alrededor de toda la isla y por eso se le debería de dar más atención por parte de agencias de gobierno público y organizaciones especializadas en cuidado y control de animales. Agradeceré que no se exponga mi información al público. Gracias por sus atenciones.</p>
2499	<p>Dear Ms. Martinez,</p> <p>I am writing to you deeply concerned about the proposed cat colony management plan to be implemented in old San Juan, Puerto Rico, at the Paseo del Morro.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>First, I would like to bring to your attention that the Old San Juan cat colonies have been cared for by the volunteer run organization, Save a Gato, since the early 2000s. As well, the cats have become emblematic of the old city, and both longtime residents and tourists enjoy having them around, not only for the touristic appeal, but also because they are part of the environment of the community, at that and they also help keep the rodent numbers at Bay.</p> <p>Furthermore, the proposed plan remarks that these cats are "an invasive species" and that they pose health threats for spreading diseases. This information is not only inaccurate but also harmful to the cats as they are portrayed in a negative light they do not deserve and which fuels animosity and violence toward them. Becoming infected with Toxoplasmosis, for instance, would require direct contact with the cat's feces. See https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/toxoplasmosis/resources/printresources/catowners_2017.pdf</p> <p>Misinformation is both a disservice to the cats and to the community of both humans and animals. Indeed, trap neuter return programs are successful and humane. The organization Alley Cat Allies puts it best "Studies show that TNR ends the cycle of breeding and sterilizes the cat population. Cats also no longer suffer the stresses of pregnancy and maybe mating behaviors like yowling and fighting. They can live and thrive in their outdoor homes and co-exist peacefully with the people whose community they share.</p> <p>TNR is also proven and sound public policy. TNR reduces shelter intake, the number of cats killed in shelters, and calls to animal control all of which saves taxpayer dollars. Instead of wasting money on an endless cycle of impounding and killing cats in shelters, animal control officers and shelter staff can focus on animals in need."</p> <p>In contrast, the outdated approach of rounding up and killing cats is being increasingly abandoned by animal control officers because it is cruel and ineffective. I do not support the killing of cats. We live in a society that increasingly values humane approaches and will not stand for municipalities that kill cats. (See: https://www.alleycat.org/resources/advocacy-toolkit/)</p> <p>If anything, organizations like Save a Gato deserve more support. In light of the role, presence, and cultural meaning of the old San Juan gatos, I urge the National Park Service to desist on imposing such a harmful plan to eliminate the Paseo del Morro cats.</p>
2500	<p>Buenas tardes. No estoy de acuerdo que se proceda a remover los gatos en San Juan. Ellos son alimentados y esterilizados por la comunid. No estan indicano que haran con los gatos luego que los remuevan. Lo que necesitan los gatos de la callie es agua, comida y esterilizacion. Si a los funcionanos del gobierno les preocupa los mismos, deben ofrecer servicios veterinanos y santuanos para ellos preservando la vida. Al no indicar que cual es el destino de los gatos debe presumirse que pretender matarlos. Cual es la intencion de disponer de ellos?</p>
2501	<p>November 15, 2022</p> <p>National Park Service San Juan, PR</p> <p>To whom It may concern,</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>I would like to express my disagreement with the proposed plan to remove (kill) the TNR colony from Old San Juan, whose cats are beloved by residents and tourists alike, and have lived in the area for over 15 years. It is a callous and cold-hearted proposal, which also negates the hard work of all the volunteers who care and give of their free time to care for these cats and work tirelessly to find homes for the ones that are adoptable. I have been a volunteer with Save A Gato for over 8 years at one of their Adoption Centers and one of my beloved cats was rescued by them.</p> <p>TNR has been a proven solution to control cat colonies; other cities in the US such as Reno, Nevada and in colleges such as Texas A&M University. Istanbul, a city in Turkey, is recognized worldwide as the leading example on how to care for cat colonies and live in harmony with the residents of the city. Not to mention the vacuum effect that would happen if these cats are removed; other unspayed and unneutered cats would move to these areas. A quick search will lead you to many stories from tourists who love to visit Old San Juan to meet the cats and even take time from their vacations to volunteer. It is time we treat animals with respect, they are not the problem, we humans are, as they are the product of irresponsible owners who never spayed or neutered their pets.</p> <p>It is my sincere wish that you reconsider and leave these cats at peace. There is nothing humane in the methods you will use to remove them, and these will set a terrible example for the future. I will continue to raise awareness, and defend these innocent cats. If the plan continues, I will just come to believe the US government does not care about the well-being of animals, and just prefer to murder them.</p> <p>'The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated. - Mahatma Gandhi</p>
2502	<p>November 9, 2022</p> <p>SAJU Superintendent Attn: Paseo Cats 501 Calle Norzagaray San Juan, PR 00901</p> <p>Re: Free-Ranging Cat Management Plan for San Juan National Historic Site (the Park)</p> <p>Dear Superintendent:</p> <p>The large population of unsterilized outdoor cats is our nation's "most pressing cat issue," according to the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). In fact, control of free-roaming cats (and dogs) is a worldwide problem. Nevertheless, HSUS and other leading groups that have studied the issue (National Animal Care & Control Assoc., ASPCA, RSPCA, American Humane, Alley Cat Allies, BFAS, etc.) all support community cat management strategies such as the Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) program led by Save A Gato in San Juan. Time after time, in city after city, these programs have proven far more successful - - and morally defensible - - than the proposed alternative of "removing" community cats.</p> <p>I understand that your department must address the concerns of people who oppose the</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>presence of cats at the park. However, I would like to offer some considerations regarding key points in your Public Scoping Newsletter.</p> <p>1. Increase in Cat Population</p> <p>There are many reasons why the free-roaming cat population may have grown since 2005. One major reason is that people dump unwanted, unsterilized pets at the site. This disrupts the colony and puts the pet in danger, as the colony may see the pet as an intruder. Still, ending the TNVR program will not stop people from abandoning pets. The problem of pet abandonment is best addressed through public education and enforcement of strict animal cruelty laws, which already exist in Puerto Rico.</p> <p>Another reason the cat population has been difficult to control is the sheer size of the problem, compared with the limited number of volunteers and resources available for spay/neuter efforts. Again, terminating the program will not solve the long-term problem. Animal control agencies have killed or moved cats for decades in misguided attempts to reduce the population in their area. However, research shows that while removing colonies may temporarily reduce the number of cats in an area, other cats eventually move into the newly available territory, often surpassing the original population.</p> <p>This phenomenon is called "the vacuum effect," and it has been documented all over the world. Thus, more and more agencies are adopting TNVR strategies as the most effective and humane policy for long-term success.</p> <p>2. Cultural Landscape/ Visitor Experience</p> <p>Although there will always be visitors who disapprove of the cats, there are also - by your own admission - people who enjoy seeing them. Community cats have been part of the San Juan landscape for many years. Other famous cities and tourist sites known for their free-roaming cats include Rome, Istanbul, Athens, and Key West (Hemingway Home).</p> <p>Instead of pouring energy and resources into a course of action that is controversial, morally questionable, and historically ineffective, why not align the park's efforts with the non-profit partner that is trying to pursue the most humane and publicly accepted solution?</p> <p>Here are just a few ideas for how you might support the goals shared by NPS and Save A Gato:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased signage (to discourage pet abandonment and threaten prosecution, solicit volunteers/donations for the TNVR program, etc.) • Security cameras • Spay-neuter community events at the park • Public service announcements <p>The possibilities are endless. I realize that these suggestions may fall outside the scope of typical park functions and budgets, but if the goal is to solve the cat overpopulation problem, then let's think outside the box. Park visitors want a pleasant experience, and Puerto Rico needs humane solutions. TNVR is the only effective and humane approach to addressing community cat populations.</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
2503	<p data-bbox="321 264 537 296">November 9, 2022</p> <p data-bbox="321 331 574 464">SAJU Superintendent Attn: Paseo Cats 501 Calle Norzagaray San Juan, PR 00901</p> <p data-bbox="321 499 1333 531">Re: Free-Ranging Cat Management Plan for San Juan National Historic Site (the Park)</p> <p data-bbox="321 567 570 598">Dear Superintendent:</p> <p data-bbox="321 634 1393 930">The large population of unsterilized outdoor cats is our nation's "most pressing cat issue," according to the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). In fact, control of free-roaming cats (and dogs) is a worldwide problem. Nevertheless, HSUS and other leading groups that have studied the issue (National Animal Care & Control Assoc., ASPCA, RSPCA, American Humane, Alley Cat Allies, BFAS, etc.) all support community cat management strategies such as the Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) program led by Save A Gato in San Juan. Time after time, in city after city, these programs have proven far more successful - - and morally defensible - - than the proposed alternative of "removing" community cats.</p> <p data-bbox="321 966 1373 1066">I understand that your department must address the concerns of people who oppose the presence of cats at the park. However, I would like to offer some considerations regarding key points in your Public Scoping Newsletter.</p> <p data-bbox="321 1102 651 1134">1. Increase in Cat Population</p> <p data-bbox="321 1169 1419 1367">There are many reasons why the free-roaming cat population may have grown since 2005. One major reason is that people dump unwanted, unsterilized pets at the site. This disrupts the colony and puts the pet in danger, as the colony may see the pet as an intruder. Still, ending the TNVR program will not stop people from abandoning pets. The problem of pet abandonment is best addressed through public education and enforcement of strict animal cruelty laws, which already exist in Puerto Rico.</p> <p data-bbox="321 1402 1409 1671">Another reason the cat population has been difficult to control is the sheer size of the problem, compared with the limited number of volunteers and resources available for spay/neuter efforts. Again, terminating the program will not solve the long-term problem. Animal control agencies have killed or moved cats for decades in misguided attempts to reduce the population in their area. However, research shows that while removing colonies may temporarily reduce the number of cats in an area, other cats eventually move into the newly available territory, often surpassing the original population.</p> <p data-bbox="321 1707 1414 1808">This phenomenon is called "the vacuum effect," and it has been documented all over the world. Thus, more and more agencies are adopting TNVR strategies as the most effective and humane policy for longterm success.</p> <p data-bbox="321 1843 813 1875">2. Cultural Landscape/ Visitor Experience</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Although there will always be visitors who disapprove of the cats, there are also - by your own admission - people who enjoy seeing them. Community cats have been part of the San Juan landscape for many years. Other famous cities and tourist sites known for their free-roaming cats include Rome, Istanbul, Athens, and Key West (Hemingway Home).</p> <p>Do these places sometimes grapple with unpleasant sights or smells? Of course! Cleaning up after cats -like all efforts to keep urban areas clean - is a constant challenge, but challenges do not define cities. For example, Parisians are notorious for failing to pick up dog poo. While no one would argue that this is acceptable, you would be hard-pressed to find tourists who refuse to visit Paris solely for this reason. Nuisance complaints are best managed by targeting specific problems, such as inadequate waste cleanup, rather than by trying to eradicate the entire free-roaming population of a species that exists on every continent except Antarctica.</p> <p>3. Health and Safety</p> <p>Contrary to popular misinformation, cat colonies are neither breeding grounds for disease nor public health threats. A 2008 study published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association found that only 4.3%of rabies cases came from cats (pet or feral). There has not been a confirmed cat-to-human rabies transmission in the U.S. for over 40 years. Most rabies (90%) comes from wildlife.</p> <p>Researchers in 2002 tested community cats for FIV and 10 other infectious organisms; they concluded that "feral cats assessed in this study posed no greater risk to human beings or other cats than pet cats."</p> <p>Deborah L. Ackerman, M.S., Ph.D., an adjunct associate professor of epidemiology at the UCLA School of Public Health, says that there is "simply no evidence" that community cats are a threat to public health.</p> <p>The best proof that feral cats are not a health risk is that their caregivers are overwhelmingly healthy. "If feral cats transmitted disease to humans," says Ackerman, "colony caregivers, who spend more time around feral cats than most people, would experience a heightened rate of disease, and this simply isn't the case." According to Alley Cat Allies, "No study has ever shown that colony caregivers have any increased risk of disease, despite their regular contact with feral colonies." Ron Cash, director of Atlantic City Department of Health and Human Services, says, "I'm not a cat or animal lover, but I believe the complaints and hysteria about disease as result of feral cats are overblown ... [TNVR] programs stabilize feral cat populations, and the vaccination component ... protects the health of cats and humans alike."</p> <p>Most diseases that infect cats can only be spread from cat to cat, not from cat to human. You are much more likely to catch an infectious disease from the person standing in line with you at the grocery store than from a cat. In fact, a 2002 review of cat-associated diseases published in the Archives of Internal Medicine concluded that, "cats should not be thought of as vectors for disease transmission." - -Alley Cat Allies: https://www.alleycat.org/</p> <p>4. Cat Welfare/ Wildlife Concerns</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Those citing "welfare concerns" as a reason to remove the cats are either insincere or sadly misguided.</p> <p>There is no solution based on removal that benefits the cats. Killing cats that are healthy, playful, and full of life is not an act of compassion. Relocating them is neither humane nor practical. The cats are bonded to each other and to their home territory. They know which areas are safe and where to find food. It is extremely disorienting for them to be dumped in unfamiliar areas. They try to find their way back, and many die in the process. According to Lifeline Animal Project, less than 50% of relocated feral cats survive. Not knowing the dangers in the new area, they succumb to predators, cars, starvation, etc.</p> <p>Unlike pet cats, feral cats are not socialized to people. They have lived outdoors for thousands of years, just like squirrels, birds, and other animals. While their lives are different - - and yes, harder in some ways - - from those of indoor cats, they can lead healthy, happy lives in outdoor colonies. TNVR programs ensure that these colonies are sterilized, vaccinated, and cared for.</p> <p>In the case of Old San Juan, moving the cats to a more rural area is likely to endanger the very wildlife that relocation supporters want to protect. Cats at the park are well fed and vaccinated in a highly urban setting, so they pose very little threat to wildlife.</p> <p>Your newsletter also mentions the presence of rats. Yes, it is possible that an occasional rat has been seen eating cat food. Still, does anyone truly believe that removing cats will help get rid of rats? That idea is nonsense. There is a reason why farmers and others who want to control rat populations get "barn cats." Your own newsletter states that cats are hunters. Removing the cat food will do nothing to keep rats out of the area. If anything, it will make the issue worse because there will be no predators! Rats are famous for surviving any circumstances, and they will find other food sources by sneaking into trash bins, buildings, etc. Again, let's not jump to the conclusion that imperfect results in the TNVR program means we should discard the entire plan. Instead, let's focus on solving specific issues. Perhaps cat feeding can be limited to specific, supervised times. This might help deter the rats.</p> <p>5. Proposed Action</p> <p>The proposed action of contracting a professional "removal agency" is vague and somewhat disturbing. There is no explanation in your newsletter of what will happen to the cats that are trapped. Will they be relocated? If so, the "vacuum effect" discussed above will apply. In time, new cats will move into the now-available territory. The new cats will be a mix of feral cats who are not part of TNVR-managed colonies, and pet cats that people will continue to abandon. Most of these new cats will be unsterilized.</p> <p>If relocation is not the plan, then what is? Will the cats be killed by the "removal agency?" Will healthy cats be taken to shelters and then killed? (Let's be clear: Leaving cats in overcrowded shelters is a death sentence and there is nothing humane about it.)</p> <p>Relocation and catch-to-kill policies are cruel and ineffective. They are a waste of funds and a source of bad publicity for the National Park Service and the island of Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico's reputation among animal-loving tourists has already suffered after multiple</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>unflattering news stories, including animal control officials throwing dozens of dogs off a bridge, and the refusal of local veterinarians to allow others to host spay/neuter clinics. A significant number of tourists have already vowed not to visit. This type of cruelty will provoke local citizens as well. Cats are beloved by many, many Puerto Ricans.</p> <p>The final step of your proposed action is monitoring for long-term success. Based on cases where similar action was attempted, this long-term monitoring will inevitably turn into an endless cycle of trapping unsterilized, unvaccinated cats that move into the area, breeding litter after litter of new kittens. Halting TNVR efforts is a recipe for failure.</p> <p>Suggested Alternatives</p> <p>Terminating the TNVR program and removing cats from the park will not solve the issues outlined in your newsletter. This course of action is a complete waste of resources. So how should we address the excess cat population and nuisance complaints? I suggest investing MORE - - not less - - into the strategy that has been proven and endorsed by every major organization with knowledge of the subject.</p> <p>Instead of denouncing Save A Gato for failing to reduce the free-roaming cat population, why not HELP them? As a longtime volunteer with rescue groups throughout the Caribbean and mainland U.S., I have enough insight to assume that Save A Gato - a volunteer-run, nonprofit charity organization - - needs more support. The fact that they do not always have enough volunteers or funds to operate perfectly does not mean that they are not on the right path.</p> <p>Instead of pouring energy and resources into a course of action that is controversial, morally questionable, and historically ineffective, why not align the park's efforts with the non-profit partner that is trying to pursue the most humane and publicly accepted solution?</p> <p>Here are just a few ideas for how you might support the goals shared by NPS and Save A Gato:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased signage (to discourage pet abandonment and threaten prosecution, solicit volunteers/donations for the TNVR program, etc.) • Security cameras • Spay-neuter community events at the park • Public service announcements <p>The possibilities are endless. I realize that these suggestions may fall outside the scope of typical park functions and budgets, but if the goal is to solve the cat overpopulation problem, then let's think outside the box. Park visitors want a pleasant experience, and Puerto Rico needs humane solutions. TNVR is the only effective and humane approach to addressing community cat populations.</p>
2504	<p>Buen dia. Le escribo para expresar mi desacuerdo con su plan para remover los gatos del Viejo San Juan . De que manera estos seres indefensos hacen dano? De ninguna . Al contrario, son de atractivo para la zona y ademas las personas le muestran su afecto, se tiran fotos con ellos y en ningun momenta se muestran agresivos . Entonces porque el plan para removerlos? Y coma van a disponer de ellos? A donde los llevaran? Espero que la respuesta NO SEA LA EUTANASIA. Esos gatos estan esterilizados y sin alimentados diariamente por personas comprometidas con la causa . Asi que espero que conozca el significado de la</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	palabra EMPATi y la aplique en este caso. Gracias anticipadas por la ayuda que pueda brindar y recuerde que la peor plaga es el ser humano, NO LOS AN MALES ...
2505	<p>8 de diciembre de 2022</p> <p>SAJU Superintendent Attn: Paseo Cats 50 I Calle Norzagaray San Juan, PR 0090 I</p> <p>Saludos y felicidades en la Navidad.</p> <p>Escriboaravor del trabajo que realiza la organizaci6n Save a Gato y en contra del recogido injustificado de Los Gatos que viven en las calles del Viejo San Juan y alrededor de las fortificaciones administradas por los federales.</p> <p>Los Gatos no son realengos. Pertenecen a la organizaci6n y todos estan vacunados y esterilizados. Existe una inversion significativa de dinero y esfuerzos fisicos que no pueden ser pasados por alto. Estos animates son parte de nuestra ciudad y Los turistas Los retratan y Los contemplan con entusiasmo. Nosotros no somos la imica ciudad en el mundo que cuida Los Gatos y Les da su espacio y cuidado dentro de las posibilidades. Vean, por favor, el documental Kedi de Los Gatos en Turquía (Esta en Youtube) y podran entender que la politica de la exterminacion no es correcta.</p> <p>Por otra parte, Jes pregunto: i,Quieren tener una ciudad llena de ratas como esta Manhattan en New York? Cuando uno camina en la noche por las calles y parques de la ciudad, termina gritando y saltando para no pisar los roedores que estan, por manadas, merodeando en distintos lugares.</p> <p>Los Gatos fueron traídos precisamente para controlar la poblacion de ratas y ratones y ese propósito se cumplio. Los federates deben observar y ayudamos a vigilar para que no traigan estos animalitos de otros pueblos para abandonarlos, a su suerte, en esas areas</p>
2506	Yo me opongo a que exterminen Gatos en San Juan, ellos son animalitos inofensivos y no hacen dano a nadie. La ley 154 se opone a matar animales. No caigamos en apoyar la muerte de animalitos indefensos, D10S esta vigilante!
2507	Esos animalitos protegen el ambiente de roedores, culebras y lagartos, etc. Lo propio es controlar su procreacion esterilizandolos y vacunando tanto hembras coma machos. Tenemos grupos de rescatadores con acuerdos con profesionales que prestan estos servicios a bajo costo.
2508	Amamos los gatos que residen en Viejo San Juan. Estos son esterilizados, cuidados y alimentados por unal organizacion privada de residentes, Save a Gato, y no hacen dafio a nada ni a nadie; solo traen alegria a locales y visitantes. Ni el gobierno de Puerto Rico ni el de EEUU hace algo por los cientos de miles de animales realengos que sufren dia a dia en nuestras calles. Esto que tienen en riente hacer con estos gatos sanjuaneros, que ya han sido llevados a veterinarios, es una completa locura y crueldad. TODOS estamos ~n contra del crimen que pretenden cometer. El ser humano es responsable de destruir todo su entorno, no

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>seres inocentes que se han reprol ucido por la irresponsabilidad humana y solo piden un minimo de espacio en el mundo.</p>
2509	<p>SAJU Superintendent Attn: Paseo Cats 501 Calle Norzagaray San Juanm PR 00901</p> <p>November 18, 2022</p> <p>Esteemed Superintendent:</p> <p>I come from a world where the cat is sacred.</p> <p>You will understand, therefore, how especially egregious I found your proposals with regards to the cats who reside within your domain of responsibility.</p> <p>It seems it is always so with a large, obdurate, bureaucracy where zealotry and extreme solutions appear to be favored as opposed to a humane approach that will likely contain forbearance and what the Italians called tolleranza. Therefore, there has been no evidence of either from your department.</p> <p>Elsewhere, it cannot have escaped your attention that the cats of old San Juan arguably go back to the Spanish colonial presence on this island. They represent a constant source of pleasure and admiration to our visiting tourists. And, need we say more, proof of our humanity.</p> <p>I respectfully urge you to apply your resources to a close and intimate endeavor with such organizations as Save a Gato, and with all such humane organizations, and with private citizens in equal measure, towards the establishment of a humane and enduring course of action.</p> <p>The cats of old San Juan have the right to live their lives in peaceful harmony with their historical environment that has been their home for centuries.</p>
2510	<p>The animals came to our world with a purpose like the human being, the cat by its constitution is more independent than other animals, it feeds on insects, birds and reptiles, its main task is to chase away or hunt mice. And San Juan is an appealing place for them, there are many wooden houses, places where they eat and even where many people gather creating garbage at the same time.</p> <p>The cat is very necessary for the elimination of beings that can harm the human being and at the same time it is clean, independent and affectionate, it is not an animal that needs constant care and there are already entities that are voluntarily helping them.</p> <p>Let's give it a try. That at least there they have food and care and that they do not continue throwing these beautiful beings into the street.</p>
2511	<p>Dear Sirs:</p> <p>I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the open house and the document titled "Free</p>

Corr ID	Correspondence
	<p>Ranging Cat Management Plan".</p> <p>The "Management Plan" mentions that it is the desire of the National Park Service to receive ideas and provide information to assist in the development of this management plan.</p> <p>In particular, the management plan encourages citizens to submit their opinions about the presence of cats in the park, the proposed action and alternatives, the possible problems with the park's resources and any other idea that they believe is relevant and important for the planning process.</p> <p>The presence of cats (not necessarily stray) in the identified areas, in the areas presented, during the "open house" meeting (aerial photo) seems to cover a much larger area than what is identified as the "Paseo del Morro" (Paseo del Morro National Recreational Trail) and raises the question of what is the extension/coverage of the management plan.</p> <p>Does the management plan cover only the Paseo del Morro, or does it cover the entire San Juan National Historic Site?</p> <p>I have been visiting the area that includes the National Historic Site and the Paseo del Morro in the area surrounding what is known as the Puerta de San Juan for around 55 years.</p> <p>As you will understand, I visited the area before the construction of the Paseo del Morro in 1999.</p> <p>I can confirm that I remember observing cats not only in the areas that are part of the National Historic Site but also in the parts of what today constitutes the Paseo del Morro (especially in the area bordering the Puerta de San Juan).</p> <p>The construction of Paseo del Morro facilitated the previous presence of cats in the mentioned area.</p> <p>Page 2 of the management plan identifies the purpose of the management plan as "to address stray cat populations within the National Historic Site" (I ask again, does the management plan cover the entire Historic Site?).</p> <p>My question is aimed at understanding the entire management plan, since different areas of the Historic Site may require different actions.</p> <p>As an example, there are cats that reside in Paseo del Morro but I have observed cats that merely walk around the structures of Castillo San Cristóbal.</p> <p>The need for the management plan, as stated on page 2, is for the park to comply with existing authorities for invasive species.</p> <p>During the "open house" meeting on 11/03/2022, I requested a copy of the existing policies but I still do not have them or have not received them.</p> <p>Although it is difficult to comment at this time without existing policies (I searched the internet and could not find such a policy for the National Historic Site).</p>

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	<p>Even with the aforementioned limitation, I would like to mention that I consider it important to analyze which native or autochthonous species are affected by the presence of cats in the National Historic Site.</p> <p>A good plan and its alleged need should include a biological/ecological assessment of the impact of cats on any native, autochthonous, threatened, or endangered species.</p> <p>The management plan does not mention anything about the impact of cats on these species (if they exist in the National Historic Site).</p> <p>I bring this observation because the cases that exist in other parks under the administration of the Park Service seem to focus on those parks that have habitats of endemic species and that their interaction with invasive species produces negative results for the population of endemic species.</p> <p>It seems to me that the area included in the National Historic Site does not have the traditional problems of National Parks in natural areas that require greater attention due to the nature of their location.</p> <p>The historic area of Old San Juan is an urban area with a permanent human presence for more than 500 years.</p> <p>I suggest that the environmental documents to be worked on fully discuss the impact of cats on other species (not mere opinions but data and scientific evidence).</p> <p>The management plan mentions that another need for such a plan is to "reduce human health and safety issues, improve the visitor experience, alleviate nuisance issues, and reduce impacts on cultural resources and native wildlife species."</p> <p>I believe that any analysis of the cat population at the National Historic Site should really look at what the actual cat population is in your jurisdiction, that is, how many cats actually live/reside in your jurisdiction, and that study should be done in a scientifically accepted way.</p> <p>I do not wish to belittle the method used for the creation of the Management Plan but I suggest that a more detailed study be carried out and that it can really be compared with what existed in the past.</p> <p>The management plan criticizes and concludes that the CER (TNR) program established with Save-A-Gato in 2005 through an MOU does not work or is not effective.</p> <p>I suggest that before reaching these conclusions, it is really determined what is being compared and what problems are the existing ones.</p> <p>Firstly, the cat population according to an estimate from 2005 (how, when and who did it is not in the management plan) was 120 cats.</p> <p>We do not know where the 2005 count was carried out and if said estimate included the same areas that the 2021 inventory studied, specifically carried out between May 10 and June 16,</p>

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	<p>2021 (during the hours of 7 pm to 7 am).</p> <p>The method itself used in 2021 indicates that estimates were made.</p> <p>Even if we assume that the cat population increased by 80 cats in the space of 17 years (at a rate of 4.7 cats per year) it is clear to me that the TNR program is working and what should [be done is] centralize their efforts to improve the program.</p> <p>I must clarify that it is important to mention that a good management plan must compare the methodologies used in 2005 and those of the 2021 estimate to determine if they are really comparable, and thus make sure if the agreement with Save-A-Gato has really worked.</p> <p>The management plan's major criticism of the CER ("TNR") program is that it "only works in closed systems, and an exceptionally high rate of individuals within a population need to be sterilized".</p> <p>I suggest that the amount of sterilized cats within the population be studied before reaching any conclusions.</p> <p>In addition, the management plan mentions that the arrival of new cats from "other populations", or the trips of stray cats between populations, or abandoned cats in feeding places represent situations that contribute to the TNR program not working.</p> <p>It seems to me that it should be considered and studied what measures can be taken to limit the arrival of other cats and what measures can be taken to penalize people who abandon cats in the park.</p> <p>In fact, I understand that the abandonment of animals in a National Park is an existing crime or penalty.</p> <p>Therefore, a good plan should include an effort to implement existing regulations before concluding that certain actions are necessary.</p> <p>As for cultural landscapes, the conclusion that cats were not part of the "cultural resources" may be an additional error in the management plan.</p> <p>Testimony provided indicates that the cats arrived and are part of the National Historic Site since hundreds of years ago.</p> <p>Concerning objectionable odors, testimony provided by Open House participants indicated that there are substances that control such odors and can be used in problem areas.</p> <p>In relation to the safety and health discussed in the management plan, it seems to me that it is the most speculative part of the document.</p> <p>Each line on page four of the health and safety area is mostly speculative since they say cats can carry diseases that can be transmitted, cats can become infected with parasites..., visitors can be bitten or scratched.</p>

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	<p>All these statements do not refer to a single event or data about a cat with a certain disease or parasite, much less to an event of a visitor attacked by a cat.</p> <p>Even so, and without ignoring the speculative nature of this line, I suggest that a vaccination program for cats and an orientation program for visitors can be established.</p> <p>On the other hand, I can indicate from my own knowledge that cats represent a great tourist attraction to the place and their removal can represent a loss of visitors and a negative economic impact on the traditionally tourist area.</p> <p>I suggest that the Management Plan or subsequent documents study the negative impact of removing the cats, not only in the economic and social aspect, but also how the population of rats and other species traditionally linked to threats to human health will be affected.</p> <p>To say that leaving a TNR program is a "no action" alternative is incorrect.</p> <p>The action is the TNR program, it is a measure and its improvement can be considered for a viable alternative.</p> <p>On the other hand, the mere removal of cats, which is the proposed alternative, in a non-detailed way, is an alternative that does not discuss or address the alleged problems of new cat arrivals.</p> <p>I would like to request the opportunity to meet with your representatives to further discuss the cats at the National Historic Site.</p> <p>I believe that cats can and should remain in their place and I believe that a viable alternative or alternatives can be worked on that address the concern expressed in the management plan without the need for their permanent removal.</p>