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| PROBLEM |  | Doug,    I would like to discuss possible ordinances that could address problems with feral cats. I know that my sister in law, Kristy Burnworth, has contacted Noell and other individuals in the City (as well as the Humane Society and County agencies) regarding problems with feral cats, and has still not found a resolution to the problem. Yesterday I received a call from a resident on Mildred complaining of a similar problem - **cats have been running loose, with a previous neighbor providing them food, and rampantly breeding.**  She noticed recently that a new litter has emerged, and appears to have malformations, possibly as a result of all the other feral cats being related.    **It appears that the only solutions both of these ladies have found include them paying a per-cat fee ($45) for someone else to take them, paying to purchase traps (and then still having to pay the per-cat fee), or doing nothing at all.**  I'm concerned about this problem, and would like to see if there are ways that it can be addressed.    The above are just two examples, but the issue exists all over the city. I do not know if it is possible to enact some sort of ordinance to address, but am hoping administration is able to find a way to assist with the nuisance and burden these wild cats have on the community. **Our current nuisance ordinance does not facilitate actual removal of the animals, nor does it appear to put a burden of "ownership" on anyone.** **I also believe it would be helpful to address concerns regarding people feeding the cats (see Willoughby 505.16 FEEDING OF WILDLIFE.)**  This will most likely be an issue we will need to work with the County to resolve, since it is an issue that may necessitate cooperation from the Warden.    Please let me know if any additional clarification or discussion is needed.    Katie Jenkins  Ward 2 Councilwoman |
| **RESPONDENT** | **ORGANIZATION** | **RESPONSE/PROGRAM** |
| Noell Sivertsen | City of Painesville | This has been a problem for years! No one really wants to address cats and in most ordinances the cats are not part of the wildlife ordinance. The residents are right, with regard to no one to help them. The Dog Warden is not allowed by Code and the Humane Society is unwilling to assist and has limited space. **It would be helpful to have a low cost spay/neuter van come or plan to help residents like they in Cuyahoga County. Feral cats are trapped and spayed/neutered and marked as such and rereleased.** They help keep rodent numbers down and don’t increase the population when fixed. **Enforcement is also an issue how to prove someone is doing it and whose cats they are.** |
| Meg Stephenson | Executive Director for Animal Friends Humane Society, Hamilton, Ohio | We have very successful adoption/education/outreach programs available to our community. Looking at our intake numbers over the past several years we have found that simply euthanizing stray/feral unadoptable cats isn't decreasing our annual intake of cats. **We recently implemented a community cat program where unadoptable stray/feral cats are spayed/neutered, ear-tipped, vaccinated for rabies, and re-released in their territories.** Funding for this program came from a large grant and we are confident the foundation will continue to fund our program based on our short term results thus far. |
| Travis Dotson | Village Administrator Village of Bethel | We do not have anything, but I would very much appreciate getting copied on anything you receive and deem effective. |
| Ralph C. Wise | Village Administrator Village of Hebron | **2-116. Licensing of dogs and cats.**  (a) **License Required**. No person shall own, keep or harbor any dog or cat over the age of five (5) months within the City unless such dog or cat is licensed as provided in this article.  (b) **Application.** Application for such license shall be made by the owner on a form to be provided by the City Clerk within ten (10) days after acquiring any dog or cat over five (5) months of age or within ten (10) days after a dog becomes five (5) months of age; provided that any owner moving to the City for the purpose of establishing residence or becoming a resident as a result of any annexation, and otherwise required to obtain a license, shall have until ten (10) days after moving or annexation to obtain such a license.  (c) **Proof of Rabies Vaccination Required.** All owners applying for a license must show to the satisfaction of the licensing authority that the animal for which the license obtained has been currently inoculated against rabies.  (d) **Proof of Sterilization.** Any owner claiming that his dog or cat has been spayed or neutered must show to the satisfaction of the licensing authority that such operation has been performed.  (e) **Payment of License Fee**. A license fee shall be paid at the time of making application. The license fee for dogs and cats shall be three ($3.00) dollars for each altered dog and cat and seven ($7.00) dollars for each unaltered dog and/or cat. At the time of obtaining a license for a dog or cat the person applying shall give proof to the City that said **animal has had implanted by a licensed veterinarian, an identifying microchip.** All costs of the I.D. chip and the implanting, if any, shall be borne by the license applicant.  (f) **Exemption from License Fee.** License fees shall not be required for Seeing Eye dogs, government police dogs or dogs or cats belonging to a nonresident of the City and kept within the boundaries of the City for not longer than thirty (30) days; provided that all dogs or cats of nonresidents shall at the time of entry into the City be properly vaccinated against rabies, and while kept within the City, meet all other requirements of this Article. Any owner claiming any of these exemptions has the burden of proving to the satisfaction of the licensing authority that the animal in question is entitled to such exemption.  (g) **Penalties.** Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this Section shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined in a sum of not less than twenty five ($25.00) dollars nor more than two hundred ($200.00) dollars and upon conviction of a second violation of a similar offense be so fined in a sum of not less than fifty ($50.00) dollars nor more than five hundred ($500.00) dollars, and upon conviction of a third violation be fined in a sum of not less than seventy five ($75.00) dollars nor more than five hundred ($500.00) dollars. (Ord. 1658)  2-117. Licensing and Identification.  Upon payment and acceptance of the license fee, the licensing authority shall issue a receipt to the owner for the fee paid. Any license issued for the keeping of a dog or cat shall be valid for the period of time that the dog or cat’s rabies vaccination remains valid. Upon the expiration of the validity of the rabies vaccination, the owner shall be required to re-license said dog or cat for the new period of immunity. **Every dog or cat for which the owner is required to obtain a license must be implanted with an I.D. chip as provided in Section 2-116(e). (Ord. 1658)** |
| Eric Smith and  Brian Weltge | City Manager for Englewood and Executive Director of the Dayton Human Society | Englewood became involved with a prototype program about two years ago in cooperation with the Dayton Humane Society which has proven successful if not a bit unorthodox. First of all, it’s important to recognize cat control is a bell curve. On one end are the cat haters who demand immediate satisfaction via some form of euthanasia. At the other end are the cat/animal lovers who demand humane treatment and often feed strays as a well meaning gesture which simply perpetuates the problem. This group can also be quite vocal (i.e. PETA). Most citizens fall into the reasonable center of the curve fortunately. So, the program **Englewood (and Moraine in southern Montgomery County) adopted was catch and release after neutering. The cats are returned to the place of origin to slowly die out due to non-reproductive surgery.** The question you will get is why return them? Many answers but the most relevant is to continue to populate the food supply while slowly eliminating the demand. In addition, the **County shelter charges $65 per cat for euthanasia while the DHS only charges $20 for sterilization.** The DHS promotes adoption if possible. The **DHS is also providing isolated acreage for non-adoptive feral cats**. I once described community cats as an unsolvable problem. The program we now pursue is not perfect but it works well and balances competing interests humanely. There is no easy solution. |
| Bill Vance | City Manager  City of Pickerington | Our City Staff had issues with Feral Cats in Pickerington and we **tweaked our ordinances** but the **only realistic way to handle such situations is to get cooperation from adjacent property owners and trap and remove.** **Pickering contracted with a private company to trap feral cats and gave them to private adoption agency that rescues cats.** Trapped on a limited basis due to limited adopted. Would only take them as space was available. Contractor use to take them to Humane Society and they would euthanize them at $30.00 per animal. However, the Humane Society quit taking cats due to the large number of cats. We are in the Columbus area and the feral cat removal business we used can be reached at 614-554-5133 and Jerry was our feral cat removal point person. |
| Kelly A. Engelhart, MPH | Director of Public Service  City of Ravenna | We tried to **set a limit on the amount of cats residents could “house” but it died on council floor due to outcry from the public and “friends of animal” groups.** Dealing with cats and animals is worse than anything we have tried to legislate. |
| Jennifer Brown | Assistant City Manager, City of Geneva | Good luck with this one – would you be willing to share if you get responses to this. Other than **Petsmart charities coming in through a grant to offer a spay/ neuter release to reduce the offspring** - I‘m at a loss on how to deal with this ourselves. |
| David D. Hicks | City Manager  City of Moraine | We have a **program with the local Humane Society which entails catch and release of feral cats**. The basic plan is to catch the cats, neuter them, and release them back to the same community. The proposal from the Humane society is that only so many cats will inhabit an area , if they are ‘fixed’ , the population declines over time, rather than being replenished if they are removed and fertile cats remain.. So far so good. We have been using this program for a couple of years now. Initially the public did not like the return part of the program, but over time it seems to be working well. **Also, the fee for treating the cats is much less than euphemism.** |
| Robert Fowler | Director of Public Service, City of Lorain | We reached out to an APL group. They were very excited to **offer a catch spay and release program for minimal dollars.** We identified the hot spots for feral cats and worked with the APL group to reduce this issue. Just a suggestion, but you can always call upon North Ridgeville. They took a shoot first ask later method, which turned into a political nightmare. Working with the APL, they even handled some of the positive publicity towards the resolution. |
| Eric Norenberg | City Manager, City of Oberlin | Oberlin has a **volunteer, community-based organization that seems to do a pretty good job of managing the cat situation in our community. CATSS (Community Action to Save Strays) is a non-profit organization with a mission of preventing births of stray cats, while improving the lives of those cats who have no home**. The donation-funded, volunteer-operated organization's primary purpose, among other activities, is to keep the feral cat populations under control through a system of trapping, neutering, and returning (TNR) local feral cats to their original locations while providing ongoing care to them. |
| Sonja M. Keaton, CPFA | Assistant City Manager  Director of Finance/ Clerk City of Brookville | **Attached is a copy of our policy** that we put into place several years ago. **It hasn’t worked as well as we hoped because nobody wants the cats back after they have been spayed or neutered.** |
| Greg Stopka | Alliance for Innovation, Midwest Director | **No Shelter Pet Left Behind: “It is the mission of No Kill Manatee County, Animal Services,** to save as many animals as possible by achieving a 90% save rate. This means that we will do everything we can to make sure pets are given that second chance, primarily through adoption programs. Saving pets will also be accomplished in cooperation with other animal welfare organizations, animal shelters, the media and the public through methods such as enhanced family pet retention, returns to the pet’s family, increased fostering and adoption, free and low cost spay and neutering and a **feline TNR (trap/neuter/return) program**” (page 1). <http://transformgov.org/en/knowledge_network/documents/kn/Document/304377/No_Shelter_Pet_Left_Behind> |
| Greg Stopka | Alliance for Innovation, Midwest Director | **All Paws on Deck:** In 2011, the City of San Antonio was mired in animal control problems, and citizen complaints were coming from two different directions. On one had, an estimated 153,000 stray animals roamed city streets, and residents complained bitterly about health and safety concerns. On the other hand, the City was in the fourth year of a failed five-year initiative to reach a Live Release Rate of 70%, and concerned residents worried about the euthanizing of so many animals. Like many other entities, the City of San Antonio found itself generally alone in the seeming contradictory position of needing to reduce the stray population and reducing the number of animals euthanized. <http://transformgov.org/en/knowledge_network/documents/kn/Document/305122/All_Paws_on_Deck> |
| Greg Stopka | Alliance for Innovation, Midwest Director | **Win Win Strategies for Managing Homeless Cats:** “Few anticipate that some of the most emotionally charged, time consuming, and vexing issues to face them will relate to animals, especially the treatment of homeless cats. Having spent much of her professional career working for federal, state, or local government agencies, the author has a unique perspective on this issue, as she's also **managed a feral cat colony for nearly a decade**. Using that personal and professional expertise, the author has developed this comprehensive set **of cost-effective, efficient strategies for addressing feral cat issues within communities**” <http://transformgov.org/en/knowledge_network/documents/kn/document/302474/winwin_strategies_for_communities_in_managing_homeless_cats__and_dogs> |
| Internet Search | City of Fort Worth, Texas | Feral Cat Policy: **Endorses the Trap-Neuter-Return method as a way to control feral cat populations.** Policy is attached for your review and explains responsibilities. |
| Internet Search | City of Columbia, Missouri | **Feral Cat Colony Caretaker: Issue permit for feral cat colony caretaker**. Requirements are defined in ordinance and include ear tipped and micro-chipped, neutered or spayed and vaccinated against rabies. Colonies to be maintained. Regulations established for the caretakers of the cat colony. |
| Internet Search | City of Indianapolis, Indiana | Free Roaming Cat Ordinance: This ordinance allows for the registration, caretaking, vaccination and feeding of free-roaming cats through a managed program of trap-neuter and return. Free roaming cat means any homeless, stray, wild or untamed cat. Provides for managed colonies and responsibilities of caretaker. |
| Internet Search | Florida State University, | **Article – Feral Cat Colonies in Florida: The Fur and the Feathers are Flying.** The article discusses the pros and cons of trap-neuter-release type programs and legal ramifications. |
| Internet Search | The Humane Society of the United States | **Article – An overview of Caring for Free-Roaming Cats.** Addresses the issues involved with free roaming cats and provides possible solutions including how to care for them, discussion of trap-neuter-release programs, protecting wildlife from free roaming cats, and information on how to be a responsible cat owner. |