

CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
TRAP, NEUTER AND RETURN POLICY GUIDELINES
FOR MANAGED FERAL CAT COLONIES

- A. Purpose.** Trap, Neuter and Return programs offer a humane alternative for controlling cats that are at large. Such programs may be approved on a case by case basis by the City. A feral cat is a domesticated cat or its offspring that is unsocialized to humans and is not tame. A feral cat colony is a group of two or more feral domestic cats. A managed feral cat colony is a feral cat colony cared for by a person who assumes responsibility for managing the colony in accordance with the goals and requirements set forth herein. It is a kind of Trap, Neuter and Return Program for feral cats. The purposes include reducing the number of feral cats in the colony through humanely trapping, spaying and neutering, vaccinating and releasing feral cats thereby eventually causing a reduction in their number while increasing the overall physical health of the colony. The purposes of such a program must be balanced with the need to continually ensure the health, safety and welfare of the general public. Tracking the effectiveness of a Trap, Neuter and Return program, including a Managed Feral Cat Colony, is an integral part of such program.
- B. City Approval.** The supervisor of the City's Animal Control Division shall review and consider all requests to implement a Trap Neuter and Return Program for feral cats as managed feral cat colonies in accordance with the provisions of this policy and consistent with the City's regulatory scheme for animal control as set forth in its ordinances.
- C. Assumption of Responsibility.** Managers of feral cat colonies assume responsibility for managing their colonies in accordance with this policy and other applicable laws and regulations.
- D. Registration of Managed Feral Cat Colonies.** Managed feral cat colonies may be approved if they register with the City on an annual basis which registration shall include the following information:
1. Identifying and providing contact information for the Manager of the proposed managed feral cat colony. Such contact information shall include who to contact on weekends and evenings;
 2. Location of the colony. Location of the colony is determined by the location of the feeding station(s);
 3. Name and written proof of property owner's consent to have such managed colony on the property as well as consent from any other property owner whose property is needed to access the colony;
 4. Name and proof of written notification sent by certified mail regarding the proposed managed Colony in a format acceptable to the City explaining the right to contest the presence of the colony in a hearing before the municipal court judge within 30 days of receipt of such notification to all property owners and tenants within 200 feet from the property line upon which is located the managed feral cat colony. For purposes of this section, written notification to a property owner is presumed if sent to the name and address as shown in the current records for the central appraisal district for such property and if sent to tenants pursuant to the City rental registry;

5. General description of the colony as to the approximate number, gender, age, health, ability to reproduce; numbers that have been successfully trapped, spayed or neutered, and returned, and other relevant information as determined by the City;
6. General description of the proposed care for the colony, such as feeding schedule, type of food, source of water, and type of shelter provided, if any;
7. General description of the trap, neuter and return program used;
8. How members of the managed feral cat colony will be identified. Ear tipping or notching is required and microchipping is encouraged;
9. Payment of a registration fee as may be duly adopted by the City; and
10. Provision of any other information deemed necessary by the City to ensure a successful managed feral cat colony.

E. Change in information of Registration. If information other than the description as to the type and number of cats change during a registration period for a managed feral cat colony, the manager of the feral cat colony shall provide the City with the new information within thirty (30) days.

F. Keeping Records. Feral cat colony managers shall keep records as to the approximate number, gender, age, health, ability to reproduce; numbers that have been successfully trapped, spayed or neutered, and returned; medical services rendered and other relevant information as determined in advance by the City in a form acceptable to the City. Such information shall be made available to the City upon request during normal business hours.

G. Goals of Managed Feral Cat Program. Managers of feral cat colonies should be able to demonstrate to the City that the following goals are being met:

1. That there is a reduction in the population of the colony; and
2. That there is an increase in the overall health and well-being of feral cats within the colony and within the general geographic area. This includes an increase in the percentage or number of cats neutered and vaccinated.

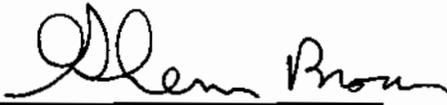
H. Failure to Meet Goals. If the City reasonably determines that the goals recited above are not being met over a reasonable period of time based upon observation, complaints or the failure of the manager to adequately demonstrate otherwise upon request, then the registration of such cat colony may be revoked. Such revoked registration may be re-instated if adherence to this policy can be adequately demonstrated as determined by the City.

I. Management Practices. The following management practices should be in place when managing a feral cat colony:

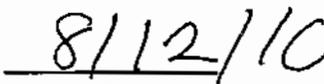
1. Inform the Animal Control Officer immediately or as soon as is practical anytime a feral cat within the managed feral cat colony is diseased or carries a transmittable disease contagious to other cats, pets or people. In such instance, the City shall have the discretion to take whatever measures it determines necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the general public.
2. Abide by all the requirements set forth in Chapter 2 regarding problem behavior of animals;
3. Identify who will be doing the trapping and transportation, and ensure that such person(s) receives and keeps current pre-exposure rabies vaccination information available to the City;
4. Actively attempt to humanely trap, spay or neuter and return all the feral cats aged 12 weeks and older within the colony until all cats within the colony have been neutered, are current in their rabies vaccination and are otherwise in good health. This may require periodic re-trapping to ensure rabies vaccination is kept current;
5. Upon trapping, test for FeLeuk and FIV. If a feral cat tests positive for one or both of these, the manager must ensure that such cat is humanely euthanized. If tests are

- negative, the manager must ensure that the animal is spayed or neutered, and is current in its rabies vaccination;
6. Maintain and keep available to the Animal Control Officer upon request information as to the dates and times of trapping, and the date and nature of medical care, including vaccinations and neutering, for each cat within the colony;
 7. Provide food and water in a humane manner, including daily feeding on weekends as well as weekdays and provision of a constant, safe source of water;
 8. Not locate feeding stations or other items relating to a managed feral cat colony within 100 feet of City-owned property including public right-of-way, parks, and government buildings;
 9. Develop and use a monitoring program to identify new cats joining the colony as well as cats requiring medical attention;
 10. Take any and all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with the provisions of this policy, including reducing likelihood of trespassing upon property of others, taking actions likely to increase ability to neuter and vaccinate and keep the cats healthy, avoiding exposure to diseases, selecting feeding locations most likely to best meet the provisions of this policy, etc.; and
 11. Ear notch or ear tip all spayed and neutered feral cats within the colony.

J. City Processing of Cats from Managed Feral Cat Colonies. In the event an Animal Control Officer encounters a cat he reasonably believes may belong to a managed feral cat colony and is in violation of one or more provisions of this policy or other applicable law, or is in poor health, not spayed or neutered or otherwise requires human intervention, such officer shall use his reasonable best effort to contact the manager of the colony to which such cat belongs. In such circumstances, the Animal Control Office may impound such cat. The cat may not be returned to the manager of the colony until impoundment fees and all other fees are paid in full, the cat is free from disease or from being a carrier of disease; and the cat is spayed or neutered.



City Manager



Date