

Caretaker Responsibilities

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Ongoing colony management, combined with Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), will promote harmony between colony caretakers, neighbors, and property owners and allow for the colony to diminish naturally over time. It is crucial that the following guidelines be followed to ensure that the colony is being properly managed.

Caretaker defined: A **caretaker** is a person who provides food, water and shelter for a colony of un-owned, free-roaming cats.

Colony defined: A **colony** is any number of un-owned, free-roaming cats that frequent an area seeking food or shelter.

General Care for Your Colony

- 1) Assure that all the cats in the colony, even those that visit sporadically, will be sterilized, ear tipped for identification, vaccinated for rabies, micro-chipped, and returned to their familiar habitat. Be sure that any new cats observed in your colony are promptly sterilized.
- 2) Provide adequate food and water for the cats on a daily basis, year round, using techniques to minimize nuisance.
- 3) Provide adequate shelter for cats in the colony using techniques to minimize nuisance.
- 4) Ensure that any cats that are injured or ill receive prompt treatment. Contact CatVando if you need assistance with an ill or injured cat, but do not wait for CatVando if there is a medical emergency. It is not humane to allow any animal to suffer a slow, painful death.
- 5) Maintain records (notes, surgery, treatment and vaccination) for all colony cats.
- 6) Make efforts to place tame colony cats with CatVando and then with adoption groups.
- 7) If you are moving or can no longer adequately care for your colony, contact CatVando as soon as possible so that alternate caretaker(s) can be identified.
- 8) Use humane techniques to discourage or exclude cats from areas where they are not welcome.

For questions with any of these, contact CatVando via contact information listed above.

Specific Care for Your Colony

1. On-going Monitoring/TNR

All the cats in the colony, even those that visit sporadically, will be sterilized, ear-tipped for identification, vaccinated, and returned to their familiar habitat. Make certain any new cats observed in your colony are promptly sterilized.

Why?

When cats are not sterilized they will display offensive mating behaviors which can quickly become a nuisance. They include: spraying, yowling, fighting, unwanted litters of kittens, and adult cats roaming the neighborhood.

What to do:

- Contact CatVando as soon as any new, un-owned cat arrives.
- Educate your neighbors about TNR. Let them know you are doing something proactive to address the free-roaming cats in the area by implementing a TNR program.
- Make certain any new cats that join the colony are sterilized immediately.
- Make sure they recognize and understand that an ear-tip represents a fully vetted and sterilized colony cat.

2. Food and Water

Cats must be provided with adequate food and water on a daily basis year round.

Why?

When cats do not have adequate food and water, they will seek it in areas where they are not welcome in an effort to avoid starving, for example, in your neighbor's trash or a dumpster.

What to do:

- Cats should be fed in a designated, inconspicuous area on your property, away from people or high traffic areas where they may create a nuisance or be injured.
- Feeding areas should be kept neat and clean. Empty food cans and plates should be picked up promptly. Food that has gotten wet or spoiled (for instance, canned food that has been sitting out all day), should also be discarded. Wet or spoiled food can cause illness.
- Create a small, partially enclosed feeding site to make food/water bowls and the cats less visible, and prevent food from getting wet and spoiled during rain or snow.
- To avoid attracting wildlife, feed cats in the morning or daylight hours only. Remove leftover food.
- If the area where the cats are fed is objectionable for one of your neighbors/property owners, gradually move the station to a less objectionable area a few yards away. This can be done in increments and completely in 1-2 weeks. The cats will follow the food.
- If you are leaving for a time, or cannot feed the cats, arrange to have someone else provide them with food and water on approximately the same schedule.

3. Shelter

Cats must be provided with adequate shelter on your property.

Why?

When cats do not have a warm and dry shelter, they may seek it in areas where they are not welcome, for example under your neighbor's deck, shed, or in a car motor.

What to do:

- Cat shelters should be placed in an inconspicuous area on your property, away from people or high traffic areas.
- Shelters and feeding stations should be placed so that cats do not need to cross roads or neighbors' property to move back and forth from shelter to food/water.
- Shelters should be painted in neutral colors, or in some way to blend into the surroundings.
- Straw is the preferred bedding since it does not hold moisture. Do not use blankets, towels or other cloth bedding. Remove old straw frequently and replace with fresh, clean, dry straw to reduce fleas and other parasites.
- Provide enough shelters to house all the cats in the colony.

4. Medical Care

Make certain that any cats that are injured or ill receive prompt treatment.

Why?

For humane reasons, all animals must receive treatment as quickly as possible when they are ill or injured. Beyond humane reasons, ill and injured cats may be very disturbing to other compassionate citizens who may call Animal Care and Control, believing that the animal should be euthanized, rather than living with illness or injury. This can also reinforce the stereotype that cats living outdoors are sickly and diseased and should be destroyed.

- Indicators that the cat may be ill / injured include:

- Weight loss
- Failure to eat or drink
- Lethargy
- Discharge from nose and eyes
- Hair loss
- Failure to put weight on a leg
- Visible wound

Contact Triple R Pets if you need assistance with an ill or injured cat, but do not wait for Triple R Pets if there is a medical emergency. It is not humane to allow any animal to suffer.

5. Maintain Medical Records

Triple R Pets will provide you with a feral cat tracking record for your colony. Update these records including necessary vet visits and treatment, disposition, and notes for all colony cats.

Why?

- Cook County and other Illinois counties require feral cat caretakers and sponsors to maintain rabies records at all times for inspection by Animal Care and Control upon request. Further, if urgent medical attention is needed, having such information readily available can save valuable time.
- Maintaining good vet records allows you to show evidence that the feral cats are healthy and fully vaccinated.
- Records can be used as a tool to educate neighbors who are fearful that the ferals will pass a disease to them or their pet cats.

6. Adoption of Tame Cats (Friendlies)

If you believe that a free-roaming cat or kitten in your colony is adoptable, contact Triple R Pets. Triple R Pets will make every effort to evaluate the cat and place it in an appropriate home or organization if one is available or identified. CatVando will only place cats with organizations that will not euthanize the cats to make space for more.

Why?

- Fewer cats in the colony will reduce the incidence of nuisance complaints. Cats which have lived indoors most of their lives often have a harder time successfully adapting to living outdoors.
- Tame or friendly cats are more likely to fall victim to violence because they do not fear humans.
- All friendly cats should be scanned for microchip identification. You may find friendly pet cats have been abandoned or lost by their owner. These cats have joined a colony in an effort to survive.

Facts to consider when deciding to find a home for a stray cat:

- If a cat is doing well in its current colony, we believe it may be best to leave the cat there. Triple R Pets hopes that one day that there will be homes for all cats, but the current reality is that healthy, adoptable cats are euthanized daily in our city due to lack of homes
- Un-owned, free-roaming cats come from diverse backgrounds. As such, it is nearly impossible to predict if a stray or feral can be successfully socialized to the degree that would make it suitable for adoption. Not only is it labor intensive, but the outcome is uncertain. Even a socialized cat may have been abandoned because it exhibited problems. One that is poorly socialized may put the adoptive owner in a difficult position and will often lead to the cat being abandoned again or relinquished to a shelter.
- Private adoptions that you may arrange yourself can be dangerous for the cat. Advertising a cat as "free to good home" invites persons who trade in animals for research purposes and experimentations. Such ads may also draw people who will use a cat or kitten for dog fighting training purposes.

Feral: Truly feral cats are not candidates for adoption. They do not seek or want human companionship or interaction. It takes months or years to socialize a feral cat and even then the cat may bond only to the person socializing, but may regress to a feral state when introduced to new people. TNR is the most humane option for feral cats.

Semi-Feral: Semi-feral cats may be more receptive to socialization but will not be easily adopted. If the cat has been on the street for months or years, it may be as difficult to socialize as a total feral. These cats are also difficult to place. Quite often, bringing new people into the cat's environment will be overwhelming and cause the cat to regress. If this happens the cat is not a good candidate for adoption. Other behaviors such as spraying to mark territory or fighting to protect territory can persist when a semi-feral cat is brought indoors.

Friendly: These cats are the easiest to place in a home. Most friendlies are either strays or have been recently abandoned. They seek human interaction and want to be touched. Friendlies approach humans readily. They do not regress when introduced to different people or environments.

****Please note:** You have not failed if the cat you are working with cannot be socialized for adoption. What you may think is best for a feral or semi-feral cat may not always be in the best interest of the cat. We need to respect the unique ways and manners of the cat.

Always contact CatVando first to see if we can help the cat. If you must place a cat for adoption on your own, please follow these guidelines, and contact CatVando for help with adoption screening, forms, microchip scanning, and medical costs for spay/neuter surgery.

Advertise through friends, neighbors, and local veterinarians first; then try the newspaper, if all else fails. NEVER advertise "free kitten." Your chances of finding a good home are increased when you check references with someone you know. Personally interview all applicants.

Visit the prospective new home in order to get a feel for the environment in which the cat will be living.

Always be mindful of your own safety when you go to interview potential adopters or if you allow a prospective adopter to enter your home.

Don't be fooled. If anyone refuses to allow you to visit his or her home, do not place the cat with him. Individuals known as "bunchers" routinely answer "free-to-good-home" ads, posing as people who want family pets when, in actuality, they sell pets to animal dealers. Dogfighters have also been known to obtain domestic animals for baiting through "free to good home" ads.

These people are "professionals" who may even bring children or their mothers with them when picking up pets.

Ask for a valid form of identification (preferably a driver's license). Record the number for your records and require the new owner to sign a contract stating the requirements of adoption upon which both parties agree. As part of the contract, require the new owner to contact you if he or she decides at some point to give up the pet.

**YOU MUST HAVE THE CAT / KITTEN SPAYED / NEUTERED
BEFORE PLACEMENT IN THE ADOPTIVE HOME.**

7. Inability to Continue Providing Care

If you are moving or can no longer adequately care for your colony, contact Triple R Pets as soon as possible so that alternate caretaker(s) can be identified.

Why?

It is inhumane to abandon a colony of cats that has grown dependent on you. Left alone the cats may starve to death or run the risk of becoming a nuisance as their basic survival needs are not being met, and they may be impounded by Animal Care and Control. CatVando will assist in finding a new caretaker.

8. Exclude Cats from Areas They Are Not Welcome

Use humane techniques to discourage or exclude cats from areas where they are not welcome.

Why?

If you fail to address your neighbors' complaints about excluding cats from specific areas where they are not welcome, you are risking their lives by allowing them to become a nuisance and forcing Animal Care and Control to impound the cats to mitigate the nuisance. All property owners have the right to not have cats on their property. Often times, they simply don't understand why the cats are present, or object to a particular behavior of the cats. Some times, they fear the cats may carry disease. It is best to try and determine the specific reason for their objection, educate them, and/or try to mitigate the complaint, if possible, using communication and techniques outlined here. Please do not trespass, argue with the neighbor, or inflame the situation. Most problems fall into two categories:

1. Cats are entering an area in which they are not welcome to seek food, water, or shelter.
2. Cats are entering an area in which they are not welcome to eliminate.

Addressing Elimination Issues:

- Provide a litter box area for your colony on your property to prevent the cats from using your neighbor's garden or flower bed. The number one complaint about free-roaming cats is inappropriate elimination.
- A cat's natural instinct is to eliminate in soft, loose, soil-like mulch, sand or peat moss.
- Build a simple wood frame and fill it with sand, dirt, etc. in a quiet area away from the shelter and feeding areas.
- Provide the cats with covered outdoor litter boxes.

TIP: Removing urine stains and odors. Clean areas where urine has been sprayed with white vinegar or Nature's Miracle (available in most pet stores). It will eliminate most urine stains and odors.

Excluding Cats from Specific Areas:

- Purchase a Cat Stop and offer it to your neighbor in an effort to exclude a cat from an area where it is not welcome.
- Suggest that the area be secured, enclosed or sealed, and offer to help, if practical. Cats often get under decks, crawlspaces, garages, sheds, etc. to seek shelter. These are also areas that can usually be readily sealed.
- ***If cats are seeking shelter in an area in which they are not welcome, there may be a problem with the number, type, or placement of shelters you have provided!!***

Cook County, Illinois Legalities for Managed Care of Feral Cats

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Cook county Board of Commissioners that Chapter 10 Animals, Article IV Managed Care of Feral Cats, Section 10-95 through 10-99 is hereby enacted as follows:

ARTICLE IV. MANAGED CARE OF FERAL CATS

Sec. 10-95. Definitions.

For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the meaning set forth in this section. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words in the plural number include the singular, words in the singular number include the plural, and words in the male gender include the female gender.

Abandoned Cat means a domesticated cat that an owner has forsaken entirely or neglected or refused to provide care and support.

Animal Control Officer or *ACO* means any person employed or appointed by the County or a municipality who is authorized to investigate violations of laws and regulations concerning animals, and to issue citations in accordance with Illinois law and this Code.

Department means the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control.

Domesticated cat means a cat that is socialized to humans and is appropriate as a companion for humans.

EaID means an electronic animal identification device.

Eartipping means straight-line cutting of the tip of the left ear of a cat while the cat is anesthetized.

Feral Cat means a cat that (i) is born in the wild or is the offspring of an owned or feral cat and is not socialized, (ii) is a formerly owned cat that has been abandoned and is no longer socialized, or (iii) lives on a farm.

Feral Cat Caretaker means any person other than an owner who provides food, water or shelter to, or otherwise cares for, a feral cat.

Feral Cat Colony means a group of cats that congregates, more or less, together as a unit. Although not every cat in a Colony may be feral, any nonferal cats that congregate with a colony shall be deemed to be a part of it.

Feral Cat Colony Caretaker means any Feral Cat Caretaker who is approved by a Sponsor to care for a Feral Cat Colony.

Micro-chip means, for the purpose of this Ordinance, to implant an EAID (electronic animal identification device) in an animal.

Nuisance, for purposes of this ordinance, means conduct by stray or feral cats that disturb the peace. Stray or feral cats may create a nuisance by (a) habitually or continually howling, crying or screaming, or (b) habitually and significantly destroying, desecrating or soiling property against the wishes of the owner of the property.

Owner means any person having a right of property in an animal or who keeps or harbors an animal, or who has it in his care, or acts as its custodian, or who knowingly permits an animal to remain on any premises occupied by him or her. "Owner" does not include a Feral Cat Colony Caretaker.

Sponsor is any animal Humane Society that agrees to comply with the requirements of this Ordinance for Sponsors and provides written notice to the Department that it will serve as a Sponsor.

Stray Cat means a cat that is regularly off the property of the owner, is not under the physical control and restraint of the owner, and is not regularly provided with food by its owner.

TNR means Trap, Neuter and Return.

TNR Program means a program pursuant to which feral and stray cats are trapped, neutered or spayed, microchipped, vaccinated against rabies, and returned to the location where they congregate, in accordance with this ordinance.

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Sec. 10-96. Responsibilities of owners of domesticated cats.

- (a) Owners of domesticated cats shall provide appropriate and adequate food, water and shelter for their cats.
- (b) The owner of a domesticated cat shall exercise reasonable care to guard against the cat creating a Nuisance.
- (c) Owners of domesticated cats shall not permit their cats to roam unsupervised off their property.
- (d) An owner shall not abandon a domesticated cat.

Sec. 10-97. Feral Cat Colonies.

(a) Feral Cat Colonies shall be permitted and Feral Cat Colony Caretakers shall be entitled to maintain and care for Feral

Cats by providing food, water, shelter and other forms of sustenance, provided that the Feral Cat Colonies are registered with a Department approved Sponsor, as defined in Section 10-97(b), and that the Feral Cat Colony Caretaker takes all appropriate and available steps to meet the terms and conditions of this Ordinance.

(b) Sponsorship of Colony TNR Programs. Any animal Humane Society that agrees to comply with the requirements of

this Ordinance for Sponsors shall be eligible to act as a Sponsor. Any Humane Society intending to undertake the responsibilities of Sponsor shall so advise the Department in writing and provide its address and telephone number, and electronic mail address if applicable.

(c) Sponsor Requirements. It shall be the duty of the Sponsor to:

1. Review and, in its discretion, approve of Feral Cat Colony Caretakers.
2. Help to resolve any complaints over the conduct of a Feral Cat Colony Caretaker or of cats within a colony.
3. Maintain records provided by Feral Cat Colony Caretakers on the size and location of the colonies as well as the vaccination, micro-chipping, and spay and neuter records of cats in the Sponsor's colonies.
4. Provide, at a minimum, written educational training for all Caretakers addressing uniform standards and procedures

for colony maintenance.

5. Report annually to the Department on the following:

- a. number and location by zip code of colonies for which it acts as a Sponsor in the County;
- b. total number of cats in each of its colonies;
- c. number of cats from its colonies micro-chipped, vaccinated, and spayed and neutered pursuant to the TNR program and number of cats and kittens from its colonies placed in permanent homes.

6. Use due consideration to prevent Feral Cat Colonies from being maintained on lands managed for wildlife or other natural resources, such as but not limited to Nature Preserves, where the presence of a Feral Cat Colony is a proven threat, and to avoid the taking of rare, threatened or endangered species under the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act;

7. Provide any forms or other documentation necessary to allow Feral Cat Colony Caretakers to receive any public or private subsidies, medical care or other forms of assistance for their Feral Cat Colonies which may be available to them;

8. Provide to the Department the location, by address, of Feral Cat Colonies where Feral Cat Colony Caretakers have regularly failed to comply with this Ordinance or where the Sponsor has been unable to resolve a nuisance behavior situation.

(d) Feral Cat Colony Caretaker Responsibilities. In order to be an approved managed Feral Cat Colony Caretaker, said

Caretakers shall be responsible for the following:

1. Registering the colony with the Sponsor.

2. Taking all appropriate and available steps to vaccinate the colony population for rabies, preferably with a threeyear

vaccine and to update the vaccinations as warranted and mandated by law.

3. Taking all appropriate and available steps to have the colony population spayed or neutered by a licensed veterinarian.

4. Eartipping the left ear of a colony cat that has been vaccinated and spayed or neutered so that colony cats can be readily identified.

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5. Having an EAID inserted into each colony cat by a veterinarian in accordance with professional medical standards. The Sponsor and the Feral Cat Colony Caretaker shall be the named contacts for purposes of the EAID.

6. Providing the Sponsor with descriptions of each cat in the colony and copies of documents demonstrating that the cats have been vaccinated, micro-chipped, and spayed or neutered.

7. Providing food, water and, if feasible, shelter for colony cats.

8. Obtaining proper medical attention for any colony cat that appears to require it.

9. Observing the colony cats at least twice per week and keeping a record of any illness or unusual behavior noticed in any colony cat.

10. Obtaining the written approval of the owner of any property, or any authorized representative of the owner, to which the Caretaker requires access to provide colony care.

11. Taking all reasonable steps to (1) remove kittens from the colony after they have been weaned, (2) place the kittens in homes or foster homes for the purpose of subsequent permanent placement, and (3) capture and spay the mother cat.

12. Reporting semi-annually in writing to the Sponsor on (1) the location of the colony, (2) the number and gender of all cats in the colony, (3) the number of cats that died or otherwise ceased being a part of the colony; (4) the number of kittens born to colony cats and their disposition, (5) the number of cats placed in animal shelters or in permanent homes as companion cats, (6) the number of cats vaccinated, (7) the number of cats micro-chipped, and (8) the number of cats spayed or neutered.

(e) Withdrawal of Feral Cat Colony Caretaker or Sponsor. In the event that a Feral Cat Colony Caretaker is unable or unwilling to continue in that role, he or she shall notify his or her Sponsor. In the event a Sponsor is unable or unwilling to continue to perform its role, it shall so advise the Department. The Sponsor shall work with the Department to obtain a replacement Sponsor. If no new Sponsor is found within 30 days, the Sponsor shall notify the Department.

(f) Disposition of Feral Cat Colony cats.

1. An Animal Control Officer who has trapped a cat whose left ear has been tipped or which bears some other distinguishing mark, such as but not limited to a tattoo, indicating that it belongs to a Feral Cat Colony, shall scan the cat for an EAID. If an EAID is found, the Officer shall attempt to contact the Sponsor or Feral Cat Colony Caretaker. If an EAID is not found, the Officer shall take reasonable steps to notify a Sponsor of the description and sex of the cat, and if available, the address or location where the cat was trapped. The Sponsor shall then take all appropriate and available steps to identify the Feral Cat Colony Caretaker of this cat or a Feral Cat Colony Caretaker who will take responsibility for managing this cat.

2. If the Feral Cat Colony Caretaker is not able to immediately take custody of the cat, the Officer shall transport the cat to the Sponsoring Humane Society's Animal Shelter or nearest Animal Shelter. The Feral Cat Colony Caretaker shall be responsible for retrieving the cat from the Shelter within three (3) business days or advising the Shelter if he or she does not intend to retrieve the cat.

3. The Department, its designee, or a licensed veterinarian, in accordance with Section 10-98, Ordinance Enforcement, shall be the only persons permitted to destroy a Feral Cat. No person may knowingly poison or cause to be poisoned, or cause the destruction by any other means, of a Feral Cat. In accordance with Section 10-8. Animal Care, Subsection (k), the only exception will be by written permit from the Illinois Department of Agriculture for the purpose of controlling diseases transmissible to humans or other animals and only when all other methods and means have been exhausted. Such a permit shall name a person or persons conducting the poisoning, specify the products to be used, give the boundaries of the area involved and specify the precautionary measures to be employed to insure the safety of humans and other animals. Any drugs used for the euthanasia shall be by or under the direction of a licensed veterinarian.

Sec. 10-98. Ordinance Enforcement.

(a) The Department or its designee, in order to encourage the stabilization of the Feral Cat population in Cook County, shall have the following rights:

1. The right to trap in a humane manner and remove any cats that (1) have not been vaccinated against rabies or which are demonstrating signs of the disease, (2) are not spayed or neutered, (3) are not identifiable through an EAID as belonging to a Feral Cat Colony that has a Sponsor and a Feral Cat Colony Caretaker, or (4) for public health or public safety concerns.

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a. If no issue of public health or safety exists, or if any issues of public health and safety can be addressed by the removal and relocation of the cat to another area, a Sponsor can arrange to have the cat spayed or neutered, eartipped, and vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian, and have an EAID inserted. The Sponsor may then arrange for the cat to be adopted or placed in a Feral Cat Colony.

b. If a Feral Cat is demonstrating signs of having rabies, or has an illness or injury that presents an imminent danger to the public health or safety, or to its own person, that cat shall be humanely destroyed.

2. The right to direct that a Sponsor remove a Feral Cat that is creating a nuisance if the Sponsor has failed to adequately resolve the nuisance within 30 days after being given written notice thereof. In the event that the Department directs the Sponsor to remove the cat, the Sponsor shall have 30 days to do so. Failure of the Sponsor to remove the cat within said time period (or such longer time as the Department may specify) shall constitute grounds for the Department to remove the cat.

(b) Animal Control Officers ("ACO") or police officers shall investigate any nuisance complaint allegedly caused by a

Feral Cat.

1. In the event that an ACO or police officer finds that a Feral Cat or Feral Cat Colony has created a nuisance, the ACO or police officer shall advise the Department and Sponsor in writing of the nuisance.

2. The Sponsor shall have the right to review the matter with the Administrator of the Department. If the Sponsor is not able to satisfy the Administrator that a nuisance is not occurring, the Sponsor shall have 30 days to comply with the Administrator's direction with respect to correcting the nuisance. If the Sponsor fails to correct the nuisance, the Department shall have the right to remove the cat.

If a Sponsor fails to perform its responsibilities as defined in Section 10-97(c) of this Ordinance, the Department may notify the Sponsor that it must comply with the requirements of this Ordinance within 30 days. If the Sponsor fails to do so, the Department may remove this Sponsor from the list of Department approved Sponsors, and may reassign the Feral Cat Colonies from this Sponsor to another Sponsor.

If a Feral Cat Colony Caretaker regularly fails to comply with this Ordinance, the Sponsor may notify the Feral Cat Colony Caretaker that he or she has 30 days to make all reasonable efforts to fulfill the responsibilities defined in Section 10-97(d) of this Ordinance. If the Feral Cat Colony Caretaker fails to comply within that time period, the Sponsor may identify and obtain replacement Feral Cat Colony Caretakers for the Feral Cat Colonies of the noncompliant

Feral Cat Colony Caretaker. If no other Feral Cat Colony Caretaker can be found within 30 days, the Sponsor shall notify the Department, and the Department may humanely remove all, or parts of, the Feral Cat Colonies and dispose of them in accordance with Section 10-98 of this Ordinance.

(e) Feral Cats who were spayed or neutered and vaccinated for rabies prior to the date on which this Ordinance became

effective, but did not have an EAID inserted or were marked as Feral by some indication other than a left eartip, such

as but not limited to a tattoo, shall be deemed to be in compliance with this Ordinance, if all other requirements in Section 10-97(d) are being met by their Feral Cat Colony Caretaker. Feral Cat Colony Caretakers shall take all appropriate and available steps to bring these cats into compliance with the provisions of this ordinance within three

years of its enactment, or upon revaccination of the cats for rabies, whichever comes first.

Sec. 10-99. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective thirty days after adoption.