

ORDINANCE NO. 1478

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CARE AND STABILIZATION OF
THE COMMUNITY CAT POPULATION IN
THE CITY OF ELLIS, KANSAS,
AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ELLIS, KANSAS
THAT CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE**

WHEREAS the governing body of the City of Ellis, Kansas, finds it advisable to adopt provisions to address the community cat population within the City.

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the governing body of the City of Ellis, Kansas, that the Code for the City of Ellis, Kansas shall be and is hereby amended to include the following:

Section 1: Community cat colonies.

(a) Community cat colonies shall be permitted and community cat colony caretakers shall be entitled to maintain and care for community cats by providing food, water, shelter and other forms of sustenance.

(b) Community cat caretakers will notify the City, by contacting the City Clerk's office, of the approximate location and number of animals, if known, in addition to the caretaker's contact information. Community cat caretakers must cooperate with the City in the trap, neuter and return program.

(c) The City may, at its discretion, trap community cat colonies for neuter and return pursuant to the Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) program. Cats trapped in these efforts shall be advertised for a minimum of 72 hours prior to sterilization/neuter. After the procedure, the neutered cats will be returned in the same vicinity as they were trapped.

(d) No person may knowingly poison or cause to be poisoned, or cause the destruction by any other means, of a community cat.

Section 2: Ordinance enforcement.

(a) The City or its designee, in order to encourage the stabilization of the community cat population in Ellis, Kansas, shall have the following rights:

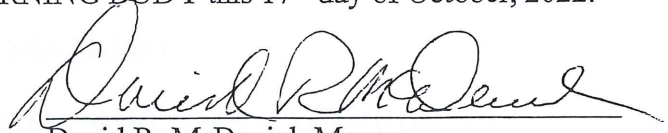
(1) The right to trap in a humane manner and remove any cats that:

- a. Have not been vaccinated against rabies or which are demonstrating signs of the disease;
- b. Are not spayed or neutered;
- c. For public health or public safety concerns.

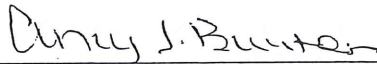
(2) If a community cat is demonstrating signs of having rabies, or has an illness or injury that presents an imminent danger to the public health or safety, or to its own person, that cat shall be humanely destroyed.

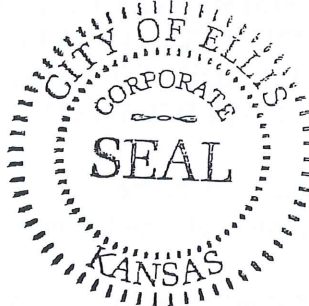
(3) The right to remove a community cat that is creating a nuisance.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY this 17th day of October, 2022.


David R. McDaniel, Mayor

ATTEST:


Amy J. Burton, City Clerk



I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original ordinance; that said ordinance was passed on the 17th day of October, 2022; that the record of the final vote on its passage is recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the same date; that it was published in the Ellis Review on the 20th day of October, 2022.

By 
Ellis City Clerk

City of Ellis, Kansas

Community Cat Trap, Neuter, Release Policy

Pursuant to Ordinance No.1478 the City of Ellis, Kansas has recognized the need to address population growth of community cats in the City. The following provides guidance to implement the trap, neuter, return (TNR) policy enacted by the City. The implementation of the TNR program is a joint effort between the departments of the City.

1. By joint consultation between the departments and governing body a target or multiple targets of community cat colonies for the TNR event will be identified.

2. Following identification of the colony or colonies, the caretaker(s) of the colony will be contacted to ensure their cooperation in the event.

3. The City Clerk's office or their designee will identify potential locations for the TNR event to occur in the City. Such a location must include a facility available to sterilize the cats. After identifying potential sites, contact with the property owners will be made to confirm the use of the site.

4. The City Clerk's office or their designee will identify veterinarian(s) to conduct the sterilization, ear tipping and administration of a rabies vaccine to the cats. The City and veterinarian(s) will determine whether the medical procedures will occur onsite or at the veterinary clinic(s).

5. Based on the availability of the site and the veterinarian(s) a date will be set for the TNR event. The colony caretaker(s) will be notified and humane live traps prepared. Traps should be provided to the colony caretaker a minimum of four (4) days prior to the date of trapping to allow the cats to become familiar with the traps to ensure the best chance of success in trapping.

6. At least 72 hours prior to the trapping, the cats in the colony which are trapped will be identified by:

1. Gender
2. Physical description
3. Location and date trapped
4. If the cat has its ear tipped
5. A photo of cat shall be taken, if possible

This information, including a photograph, if possible, shall be submitted to the public to ensure that an owned cat was not trapped. Methods include posting of the information at the City office and publication on social media.

7. Following trapping of the cats, the animals will be transported to the identified site. Record shall be made of the following:

1. Gender
2. Physical description
3. Location and date trapped
4. If the cat has its ear tipped

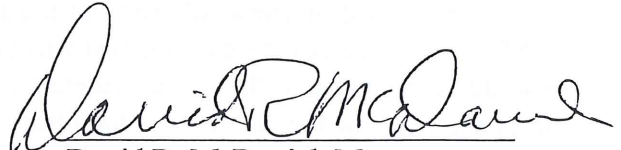
This information will be reviewed by an officer with the Ellis Police Department to ensure that the trapped cats match the description of the cats which were identified and submitted to the public. Any cats which were not previously identified shall be released along with any claimed cats.

8. Any unclaimed and publicized cats may be submitted to the veterinarian(s) for sterilization, vaccination (rabies) and tipping of their left ear.


9. The cats are to be returned to their former locations after being medically cleared by the veterinarian(s).

10. Volunteers may be used for any of the tasks in this policy under the direction of City staff. Any volunteer must complete the City Waiver prior to participation. Records of the cats trapped and identified shall be maintained in the office of the Ellis Police Department.

Adopted by the governing body this 17th day of October, 2022.


David R. McDaniel, Mayor

Attest:



Amy J. Burton, City Clerk

CITY OF ELLIS

TRAP/NEUTER/RETURN

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

Location of Cat Colony _____

Total Number of Cats (adults & kittens) _____ Kittens under 3 Months old _____

Description of Cats: _____ Feral/Unsocialized _____ Stray/Socialized
(please check all that apply) _____ Sick/Injured _____ Nursing Mom/Kittens

The TNR program is strictly a **Trap-Neuter-Return** program. This is **not** a low cost spay/neuter service for rehoming or a surrender program. ***We cannot bring cats through this program who are living indoors or will be brought indoors to live.***

I have read and understand the above statement.

Signature _____ Date: _____

For Office Use Only:

Veterinarian Contacted _____ Date _____

Procedure Scheduled Date _____ Committee Notified Date _____

Number of Traps Checked Out _____

Deadline Date _____ Actual Set Date _____ Check in
Date _____

Picture Posted By Police Department _____ Date _____

Trapped Cats Verified By Police Department _____ Date _____

Number of Cats Transported to Vet _____ Actual Procedure Date _____

Released Back to the Community ____ Yes ____ No _____ Date _____

Comments: _____

VOLUNTEER FORM FOR THE CITY OF ELLIS TNR PROGRAM

Safety Guidelines: Please Read and Initial Your Understanding and Agreement

Never attempt to touch a conscious feral/stray cat. Do not stick fingers into traps or carriers containing cats. Both cats and kittens may bite. Always wear heavy gloves when transporting stray cats. If you should be bitten by a cat (or any animal caught in the trap), the bite should be examined by a doctor within 24 hours. _____

Ensure cats are always secured in a carrier or cage during transport. Don't allow any cat to roam free in a vehicle. _____

Transport cats directly to their destination, never leaving any animals in an enclosed vehicle alone. _____

Report all scratches, bites, and escapes to Ellis Police first and immediately after they happen. _____

I agree now and always in the future to waive all claims of liability, whether of negligence or any other cause of action, against the City of Ellis, KS TNR Program, its City Council Members, officers, employees, and volunteers, for any of the followings: Personal injury, property damage, or another type of harm resulting from my participation as a volunteer in any activities I engage in on behalf of the City of Ellis, City Council Members, officers, employees, and volunteers. These activities include, but are not limited to, the trapping, handling, caretaking, and transporting of feral or stray cats, and the handling or use of equipment related to trapping, handling, caretaking, and transporting of feral or stray cats.

In signing this waiver, I acknowledge that feral cats are wild animals and can be unpredictable in their behavior. They are capable of inflicting serious bodily injury. I am willing to assume this risk to participate in Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return and/or cat rescue projects on behalf of the City of Ellis, KS.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Emergency Contact Name & Number: _____