

Caretaker Agreement

708.738.1438 office ☎ 630.214.3603 fax
info@triplepets.org ☎ www.triplepets.org
Post Office Box 86 ☎ Western Springs, IL 60558



Last Updated: 6/1/2016

Under the Cook County Feral Cat Ordinance, feral cat colony caretakers can register with a Sponsor Agency such as Triple R pets to be afforded the rights provided under the ordinance. All documentation is CONFIDENTIAL and no specific information regarding caretaker names and addresses is distributed outside of Triple R Pets without the caretaker's approval.

Caretakers agree to the following. Please initial each item.

I agree to:

- _____ **Read** and be familiar with the Cook County Feral Cat Ordinance
- _____ **Register** the colony with Triple R Pets and provide descriptions of each cat in the colony
- _____ Help to humanely **trap** each cat in my colony
- _____ Help to **Transport** each cat to the holding facility or clinic in an approved humane cat trap
- _____ Help cover the **cost** of the medical services typically \$45 per cat
- _____ See that Triple R Pets receives a copy of the medical services your cat has received
- _____ Never leave a trap out unattended or overnight
- _____ Ensure the trapped cat is fully and completely covered with a towel or cover at all times
- _____ Never transport the trapped cats in the back of an open-bed truck or in the closed trunk of a car
- _____ Understand that the cat's left ear will be "eartipped" for future identification purposes.
- _____ Understand that if a cat is pregnant the procedure is to spay and abort
- _____ Observe the colony cats and keep records of any illness, unusual behavior, or new cats/kittens, and complete an annual census
- _____ Provide spay/neuter surgery for any cat/kitten BEFORE placement in the adoptive home.
- _____ Ensure that every cat in your colony has been spay / neutered, vaccinated, ear tipped and micro-chipped
- _____ Continue to provide food, water and, if feasible, shelter for colony cats
- _____ Notify Triple R Pets if you become unable or unwilling to continue as Caretaker';

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT AND SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL. I HAVE RECEIVED A COPY THE COOK COUNTY FERAL CAT ORDINANCE.

Please print clearly.

Colony Address, City, State, Zip Code

Caretaker Printed Name

Caretaker Signature

Date

Caretaker Home Phone

Caretaker Cell Phone

Caretaker E-Mail (Please Print)

Caretaker Address, City, State, Zip Code (if different from Colony Address)

Triple R Pets Office Use: Date Received: _____ Received By: _____

Low Cost Clinics

708.738.1438 office ☎ 630.214.3603 fax
info@triplepets.org ☎ www.triplepets.org
Post Office Box 86 ☎ Western Springs, IL 60558



Last Updated: 03-01-2017

The following clinics will help with low-cost surgery for feral/stray cats:

PAWS Chicago

www.pawschicago.org
info@pawschicago.org
773-521-7729

NAWS Humane Society of Illinois

www.nawsus.org
medicalcenter@nawsus.org
708-478-5102

South Suburban Humane Society

www.southsuburbanhumanesociety.org
office@southsuburbanhumane.org
708-755-1110

Spay Illinois

www.spayusa.org
SpayUSA@AnimalLeague.org
800-248-7729

Anti-Cruelty Society

www.anticruelty.org
info@anticruelty.org
312-644-8338 ext 351

Southwest Animal Care Center

www.southwestanimalcarecenter.com
swacc1@hotmail.com
708-974-3772

Fox Valley Animal Welfare League

www.fvawl.org
clinic@fvawl.org
630-800-2254

Humane Society Calumet Area

Estelle Marcus Clinic
www.emanimalclinic.org
mharmon@hscalumet.org
219-922-3811

Please see the Spay/Neuter Clinics section of our Resources page on our web site for costing, packaging and procedures in using these clinics.

While we do our best to keep this up to date, you should always confirm with the clinic before bringing in your cat(s).

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, micro-chipped, 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 three-year 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 non-compliant 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.

PREBAIT

Training cats to use a box trap as a feeding station

This technique is ideal for backyard cats. The more time they have to spend with the trap, look it over, live with it, the better.

Place the trap at the feeding station, the place where the cats normally feed or hang out. Securely tie the trap door open so that it cannot close. Ideally, you should leave the trap in one place, 24/7, chain it to something if you need to, and leave the only food available in it. Do not place food anywhere else but in the trap. You want all the cats to eat from the trap.

Start off with the food bowl placed in the front opening. If one or more of the cats eat from the bowl in that position, move it further into the trap at the next feeding. If they don't touch the food in 24 hours, you may need to start the bowl just outside the trap. You may also need tastier food.

If there is no food anywhere else but in the trap, the cats' choice is to either go in the trap and eat or go hungry. In time, one or more of the cats will get up the nerve to try it out. That cat will demonstrate to the others that it's safe. The cats can take turns eating in the trap; they don't have to all eat at once.

Once they're comfortable with eating from the bowl, at the next feeding, place it closer to the back of the trap. You don't need to wait until all are eating before moving it.

Once they're all eating from the back of the trap, you're ready to untie the door so that it can close, and set your traps! Be sure to cover the traps with a large towel.

Tough love. They will be happier and safer once they are spayed than they ever have been in their thanks to you, their caretaker.

Try the Bottle Trick

You may need to pick out a particular cat to trap first, such as a female, or perhaps several of the cats already have been eartipped and you'll want to trap only the cats that are intact still. You can control the trap and pick out the cat you want while still allowing the other cats to eat happily and without alarming them. In order to do this, you want to control the boxtrap's door.



Find a soda bottle that's the right height to prop open the trap door. Get 30-50 feet of twine or cord that will not stretch and tie it around the neck of the bottle.

Prop the trap door open with the bottle taking up as little of the opening as you can.

Put a bowl of food at the back of the trap, and, taking string in hand, back off as far as you need to so that the cats no longer take notice of you. You may be able to sit in your house or car, with a view of the trap. Ideally, you should be in a position where you're looking at the side of the trap, and somewhat to the rear of it. In this position, a cat eating from the trap will not be "tipped off" by seeing you move to yank the cord. Take up any slack in the cord, now. Wait for your target cat to eat. Other cats may eat first, but you can catch them later. Your target cat may back out of the trap, but she will come back. You want her rear end to be 6 or 8" inside the trap, and let her settle. Give her time to stop looking around and to put her face in the food, and then YANK the cord.