

AMENDED PROPOSAL NO. 4, 2006

A PROPOSAL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO ALLOW FOR THE REGISTRATION, CARETAKING, FEEDING, VACCINATION AND TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN OF FREE-ROAMING CATS THROUGH A MANAGED PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the presence and proliferation of free-roaming cats in the City of Lawrence poses a burden and nuisance to our citizens and the public generally and a potential threat to the health and well being of individuals, household pets and other animals in the City of Lawrence; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council has determined that a process to allow for the registration, caretaking, feeding, vaccination and trapping, neutering and return of free-roaming cats through a managed program is in the public interest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Lawrence, Indiana:

SECTION 1. Definitions.

Colony means one or more free-roaming cats, whether unmanaged or managed.

Colony caretaker means a person who provides food, water and/or shelter for free-roaming cats in a managed colony. Colony caretakers shall not be deemed to be owners or keepers of such animals as these terms are defined in 3-3-1-1.

Designee means an organization recognized by the Lawrence Police Department/Animal Control that uses the trap-neuter-return method for stabilizing and reducing the free-roaming cat population.

Free-roaming cat means any homeless, stray, feral or undomesticated cat.

Managed colony means a colony of free-roaming cats that is registered with the Lawrence Police Department/Animal Control or its designee and is maintained by a colony caretaker using the trap, neuter, return method to stabilize and reduce the free-roaming cat population.

SECTION 2. Unauthorized caretaking prohibited.

(a) It shall be unlawful to provide food, water or shelter to a colony of free-roaming cats

(1) that is not registered with the Lawrence Police Department/Animal Control or its designee,

or

(2) without implementing the trap, neuter, return method as set forth in

this Ordinance.

(b) A person who violates any provision of this section shall be punished as provided in the general penalty section of the Municipal Code; provided, however, a fine imposed for the first such violation shall not be less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00); subsequent or continued violations may also result in the animals' impoundment by the enforcement authority.

SECTION 3. Managed free-roaming cats.

(a) The Lawrence Police Department/Animal Control or its designee, in order to encourage the stabilization and reduction of the free-roaming cat population in the City of Lawrence, may:

- (1) Trap any free-roaming cat in a humane manner;
- (2) Have the cat surgically sterilized, ear-tipped, and vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian;
- (3) Release the cat for adoption or other disposition in accordance with law or to a colony caretaker who will maintain the cat as part of a managed colony of free-roaming cats.

(b) The enforcement authority may impound free-roaming cats in violation of this Ordinance and dispose of the cats in accordance with applicable law. Any free-roaming cat impounded by the enforcement authority that bears an appropriate ear-tipping indicating it belongs to a managed colony may, at the discretion of the Lawrence Police Department/Animal Control or its designee, be returned to its managed colony unless illness or injury present an imminent danger to public health or safety. Seriously ill or injured cats with no reasonable prognosis for humane rehabilitation for survival outdoors may be humanely euthanized.

SECTION 4. Colony caretaker responsibilities.

(a) Colony caretakers shall abide by standard guidelines devised by the Lawrence Police Department/Animal Control or its designee regarding the provision of food, water, shelter and veterinary care for cats within the managed colony.

(b) A person who violates this section shall be punished as provided in the general penalty section of the Municipal Code; provided, however, a fine imposed for the first such violation shall not be less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00); subsequent or continued violations may result in the caretaker's removal from management of the managed colony.

SECTION 5. The provisions of this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption by the Common Council and approval by the Mayor.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2006

Attest: _____
Kathleen A. Walton, Presiding Officer
City Clerk

Presented by me to the Mayor of the City of Lawrence, Indiana this ____ day of _____, 2006.

Kathleen A. Walton, City Clerk

Presented to me and signed this ____ day of _____, 2006.

Deborah L. Cantwell, Mayor