

Resolution No. 13-208

A resolution authorizing and approving the community cat initiative Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program whereby nonprofit organizations help manage feral cats

WHEREAS, feral cats currently exist in large numbers and roam free throughout the City of Arlington with no comprehensive effective means of controlling their population; and

WHEREAS, the City currently addresses nuisances caused by feral cats through trapping and humane euthanasia; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the potential for a Trap-Neuter-Return program as a mechanism to reduce existing feral cat populations; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of instituting a successful TNR program to control feral cat population control, sponsoring organizations and individuals approved as caretakers with the sponsoring organizations have agreed to act to minimize feral cat nuisances; and

WHEREAS, sponsor organizations including the Arlington Feral Cat Coalition, Friends of Arlington Animal Services, the Texas Coalition for Animal Protection, and Alley Cat Allies, Inc. have volunteered to provide the TNR program and coordinate with Arlington Animal Services; NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARLINGTON, TEXAS:

I.

That all of the recitals contained in the preamble of this resolution are found to be true and are adopted as findings of fact by this governing body and as part of its official record.

II.

That the City of Arlington adopts the community cat initiative Trap-Neuter-Return program whereby organizations or individuals sponsored by certain organizations take actions to control the City of Arlington feral cat population.

III.

That the organizations designated by the Arlington City Council as community cat sponsoring organizations to work with Arlington Animal Services are the Arlington Feral Cat Coalition, Friends of Arlington Animal Services, the Texas Coalition for Animal Protection, and Alley Cat Allies, Inc.

IV.

That the community cat sponsoring organizations have agreed to publicize information about the Trap-Neuter-Return program, provide a single point of contact for Arlington Animal Services, and will attempt to notify the appropriate sponsoring organization when notified by Animal Services about an impounded TNR designated cat. Animal Services will notify the single point of contact about any apparent feral cat colonies in order that the sponsoring organization can take action to limit any nuisances caused by feral cats.

V.

That the sponsoring community cat caregivers have agreed to obtain cats in public areas only or with property owner permission using humane measures, ensure veterinarian care including vaccinations, and coordinate with City Animal Services. Sponsoring organizations and their caregivers have affirmed that all cats that are part of the Trap-Neuter-Return program will be sterilized, vaccinated against the threat of rabies, and ear-tipped for easy identification. If these requirements are met, properly identified TNR cats have an affirmative defense to the requirements of licensing, stray, at-large and other city ordinance provisions if there is no nuisance created by the TNR cats.

VI.

That the City Council authorizes and approves the Community Cat Caretaking Sponsor organizations relative to control of feral cat populations.

PRESENTED AND PASSED on this the 20th day of August, 2013, by a vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Arlington, Texas.



ROBERT N. CLUCK, Mayor

ATTEST:



MARY W. SUPINO, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
JAY DOEGEY, City Attorney

BY 