


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	18-668	Meeting:	December 17, 2018
	Agenda Item:	53	Roll Call:	18-2099
	Submitted by:	Dana Wingert, Chief of Police Scott E. Sanders, City Manager		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of amendments to Section 18 of the City code regarding community cats to allow for a trap, neuter, and return (TNR) program to be administered by the Animal Rescue League of Iowa (ARL).

SYNOPSIS:

Amending Section 18 to define a community cat (also known as an outdoor or feral cat), requirements for a community cat to be allowed as free roaming, and allowing for the Chief Humane Officer to determine a community cat a nuisance.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No additional costs to the City. All costs including traps and vaccinations will be provided by the ARL through foundation funding and grants.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- To reduce the strain on animal shelters, disease among the cat population, and euthanasia rates, many cities around the country are implementing a TNR program to better manage the existing cat population. Traps will be set in various areas in the City where cat colonies exist. The trapped cats will be spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and ear-tipped, then returned to their outdoor home. TNR effectively manages the cat population, improves the cats' lives, and reduces intakes and euthanasia.
- The ordinance change will allow community cats to be returned to the area where they were captured (unless the property owner objects) after the following steps:
 - Check for a tag or microchip on the cat in an attempt to find an owner
 - Assessment by a veterinarian to determine if the cat is healthy. If the cat is too sick or injured it will not be returned to the area where it was captured
 - Vaccinations for rabies and other diseases
 - Ear-tipped by the veterinarian for future identification purposes

- City staff and the ARL have worked with Alley Cat Allies who has assisted many other communities in developing a community cat and TNR policy. Council was presented with these concepts at the July 9, 2018 workshop and was supportive of staff pursuing an ordinance change. The ARL and City have also received broad community support from citizens and other animal welfare groups regarding this change.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to cityclerk@dmgov.org.