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RESOLUTION #1074

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN (TNR) POLICY FOR THE HUMANE MANAGEMENT OF THE FERAL/COMMUNITY CAT POPULATION

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Eagle River finds it in the public interest to establish clear, humane, and effective rules for the management of the feral and free-roaming community cat population; and

WHEREAS, unmanaged feral/community cat populations may result in ongoing reproduction, nuisance complaints, and animal welfare concerns; and

WHEREAS, Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is recognized by animal welfare experts, veterinarians, and municipalities nationwide as the most effective and humane method for stabilizing and gradually reducing community cat populations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Eagle River desires to provide residents with structured, humane guidelines for managing community cats while protecting public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the City has developed a formal Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Policy establishing procedures, responsibilities, and oversight for such activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Eagle River, Wisconsin, that:

Adoption of Policy

The **City of Eagle River Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Policy for Feral/Community Cats**, effective February 10, 2026, is hereby approved by reference as an official policy of the City.

Management of Feral/Community Cat Population Policy

(a) Definitions

For purposes of this Section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed to them:

1. **Community Cat** means a cat that is abandoned, stray, lost, or feral and that may be cared for by a community cat caregiver, known or unknown, pursuant to this adopted policy.
2. **Community Cat Caregiver** means a person who provides food and/or medical care for a community cat in accordance with the Trap-Neuter-Return policy, without being deemed the owner, harbinger, or keeper of the cat.

3. **Trapper** means a person approved by the City to humanely trap community cats for the purpose of sterilization pursuant to the TNR policy.
4. **Ear-Tipping** means the removal of approximately one-quarter inch (¼") of the left ear of a community cat while under anesthesia, performed by a licensed veterinarian, to identify the cat as sterilized.
5. **Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)** means the humane process of trapping community cats, sterilizing them, ear-tipping for identification, and returning them to their original location in accordance with City policy.

(b) Permitted Acts

The following actions are permitted within the City of Eagle River when conducted in accordance with the adopted TNR policy and under the direction of the Animal Control Officer (ACO):

1. Humane trapping of community cats by approved trappers.
2. Transportation of trapped cats to licensed veterinarians for spay/neuter services.
3. Ear-tipping of sterilized cats for identification purposes.
4. Return of healthy cats to their original trapping location following spay/neuter.
5. Ongoing care, feeding, monitoring, and sheltering of community cats by community caregivers.
6. Issuance and use of City-authorized spay/neuter vouchers.
7. Oversight, coordination, and enforcement of the TNR program by the Animal Control Officer.

(c) Enforcement and Authority

All TNR activities within the City shall be subject to the oversight and approval of the City of Eagle River Animal Control Officer. Any trapping, relocation, or interference with ear-tipped community cats outside of the approved policy is prohibited.

(d) No Ownership Created

Participation in the TNR program or the provision of food or care to a community cat shall not be construed as ownership, harboring, or control of the animal.

Effective Date

This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.

CITY OF EAGLE RIVER

Debra A. Brown
Debra A. Brown, Mayor

Date: 2-10-26



Becky J. Bolte
Becky J. Bolte, City Clerk

Date: 2-10-2026