

SEC. 1. Policy

The County Commission finds and declares that a community cat program is an effective method to meet the public's desire to see community cats addressed in a humane manner and improve neighborhood tranquility and public health, while at the same time reducing the number of community cats, 'nuisance' complaints, impound and killing, and wasteful expenditures. Cumberland County Animal Shelter shall employ a community cat program to reduce the number of cats killed.

SEC. 2. Definitions

(a) Cat. —The term 'cat' means a member of the species *Felis catus*.

(b) Community cat.—The term 'community cats' means a free-roaming cat.

(c) Ear-tipping.—The term 'ear-tipping' means the removal of the ¼ inch tip of a community cat's left ear, performed while the cat is under anesthesia in compliance with any applicable federal or state law and under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

(d) Community cat caretaker.—The term 'community cat caretaker' means a person who provides care to one or more community cats. However, community cat caregivers are not the owner, harbinger, controller, or keeper of a community cat.

(e) Community cat program.—The term 'community cat program' means the nonlethal process of humanely trapping, sterilizing, vaccinating for rabies, ear-tipping, and releasing community cats to their habitats.

SEC. 3. (a) A community cat shall go through the community cat program instead of euthanasia unless reclaimed, transferred to a rescue group, or adopted, with the following exception:

(1) Further veterinary care is required, in which case the cat will be returned once it no longer needs care.

(b) A trapped, ear-tipped community cat shall be released on site unless further veterinary care is required, in which case the cat will be returned once it no longer needs care.

(c) An ear-tipped community cat received by Cumberland County Animal Shelter shall be returned to the location where trapped after sterilization unless further veterinary care is required or a home is found for the cat.

(d) A community cat caretaker may reclaim a community cat if impounded at Cumberland County Animal Shelter without fee if sterilized or for purposes of placing the cat in a community cat program.

(e) Trapping of a community cat is only permitted for purposes of a community cat program, providing needed veterinary care, adoption, transfer to a rescue group, or reunification with its owner.

(f) Leash laws, stray laws, licensing laws, and limitations on the number of cats owned, kept, held, or harbored shall not apply to community cat caretakers.