

Lower Paxton Township

Animal Control Guideline: # 2019-001

Guidelines for management of feral cat populations.

Purpose: To reduce the feral cat population; mitigate the potential risk of feline and human disease; and foster a safe, healthy environment for Township residents and visitors.

Scope: To report, manage and resolve feral cat populations that are impacting residents within the Township.

Introduction: This Guideline works in accordance with Chapter 68 of the Lower Paxton Township Codified Ordinances.

Definitions: **1. Past Trap, Neuter, and Release (TNR) program:**

- a. Cats that have had past TNR experience will have an ear tipped.
- b. If the cats' ear-tipping cannot be determined, documentation must be available providing evidence of TNR procedure experience of at least 50% of the given cat population, if requested.

2. Active Trap, Neuter, and Release (TNR) program:

- a. Active, upcoming TNR appointments within the succeeding 3 months.

Procedures: **1. Food and water:**

- a. The resident household must take reasonable measures to keep feral cats on the subject property; all food and water must be on the subject property.
- b. Feeding of feral cats at TNR-approved properties must occur on a fixed schedule (e.g. early

morning, and then again in the evening); food should not be left out all day.

- c. Feeding must be done during daylight hours to discourage the attraction of wild animals.
- d. Feeding must be done under-cover in order to mitigate wet food and the attraction of insects.
- e. Water must always be available and must be clean and under-cover.

2. Winter season management

- a. The resident must provide shelter from cold weather, using enclosed containers or other structures, to feral/free-roaming cats. Shelters must contain straw or other materials that do not hold moisture.

3. Lower Paxton Township will provide vouchers for TNR/Rabies procedures and vaccinations at no cost to TNR-approved individuals. These vouchers may be used at various Harrisburg-area clinics.

4. If injured or sickly feral cats are found, the Lower Paxton Township Police Department shall be called. The Department will determine if no-cost veterinary care is available.