

POLICE MEMORANDUM
#11-2022

DATE: July 11, 2022

TO: Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members

THROUGH: Heather Geyer, City Manager *hmg*

FROM: James S. May, Jr., Chief of Police *JSM/2.17*
Randall L. Darlin, Deputy Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Shelter-Neuter-Return (SNR) Program for Community Cats at Large

PURPOSE

To provide Council with an overview of the Riverdale Animal Shelter's Shelter-Neuter-Return (SNR) Program for Community Cats at Large. The overview will provide information on feral (wild) cats, barn cats, and cats as pets. Additionally, the presentation will include suggested changes to the Municipal Code. Significant changes to Chapter 14 are necessary to implement the proposed SNR program.

BACKGROUND

In 2021, multiple Council members received a request from Chris Cline for the City to consider an SNR program via email. Staff met with the resident and Ward 3 Council members (Katherine Goff and former Council member Julie Duran Mullica) in early 2022. Council asked that the program be brought forward for Council's consideration. Staff completed the research and coordination with Riverdale Animal Shelter in early 2022 to bring this item forward. Chris Cline provided a packet of information to the City Manager to be provided to City Council, these materials are included in Attachment 3.

Community cats are different from pet cats. They are often feral and have had little to no contact with humans during their lifetime. Therefore, they cannot be adopted into homes as family pets; instead, they happily live outdoors, freely and independently.

The most humane way to improve the quality of life for feral cats while reducing their numbers within the communities where they live is to limit their ability to reproduce. This helps community cats to live healthy lives and reduces nuisance conduct associated with wild cats. Riverside Animal Shelter has a program that focuses its efforts on returning wild cats to the community they live in while reducing nuisance conduct by the colony. The program is referred to as SNR.

SNR policies provide an opportunity for community members to trap large cats and bring them to a shelter. The shelter would then spay or neuter the cats and vaccinate them to protect against rabies. The shelter tips one ear to identify that the animal has been sterilized and vaccinated. The cat would then be returned to the same neighborhood where the cat would live independently.

Once community cats are spayed or neutered, they can no longer reproduce. Behaviors associated with mating, such as howling, fighting, and spraying stop, and the cats roam less and become less visible in the community. Foul odors associated with cats are reduced, and the mixture of urine as cats attempt to mark territory decreases. The size of colonies decreases over time by an average of 66%.

Changes to the Municipal Code are necessary to implement SNR policies. Under the proposed ordinance, a community cat is defined as “a free-roaming cat that may be feral but is not wildlife, and who may be cared for by one or more residents of the immediate area, whether those resident(s) are known or unknown, and who are distinguishable from domestic cats because they are less socialized to humans and are unadoptable.”

The proposed ordinance would add Section 14-4-17, which would permit a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program. The ordinance would provide that “Trap-Neuter-Return shall be permitted to be practiced by community cat caregivers, as defined in Section 14-1-1(g), organizations, and animal control, in compliance with any applicable federal or state law.” This section identifies that TNR shall be the preferred disposition for impounded community cats. Therefore, animal control facilities and shelters shall be authorized and encouraged to conduct TNR or direct impounded community cats to a TNR program. The terms SNR and TNR are used interchangeably in this memo and the proposed ordinance.

These changes, along with the other amendments proposed, would support a change in response to at-large cats in the community and reduce the overall population and the need to euthanize feral and unadoptable cats. Educating the public on SNR/TNR policies and the proposed changes to the City ordinance is essential to the implementation of the SNR program and developing a process that provides for the community’s safety while providing a compassionate and humane response to community cats.

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

The financial impact to the City would be reduced over time. As cat colonies are reduced in size, fewer cats would be present in the community, and the cost associated with euthanizing feral cats would decrease.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends changes to the City ordinance to implement an SNR program as supported by Riverdale Animal Shelter.

STAFF REFERENCE

If Council members have any questions, please contact:

- James S. May, Jr., Chief of Police, at jmay@northglenn.org or 303.450.8967
- Randall L. Darlin, Deputy Chief of Police, at rdarlin@northglenn.org or 303.450.8964

ATTACHMENTS

1. Riverdale Animal Shelter Presentation
2. Proposed ordinance
3. Materials submitted by resident Chris Cline

Community Cats (Feral Cats)



Pet Cat vs. Feral Cat (Community Cat)

FERAL CAT

- Socialized with cats not people
- Will not meow or purr
- Adept at living outdoors and will be in good condition physically
- Will avoid and hide when people are present
- Will avoid and hide from people

PET CAT

- Socialized with people
- May respond to people with a meow and/or purr vocalizations
- Not used to caring for their self outdoors and will often be in poor body condition and look unkempt if living outside
- Will approach people

Behavior Process



Impoundment

- Three (3) days acclimation period

Behavior Evaluation

- Kennel behavior
- Reaction to handler
- Looking at body language
- Interaction with items in kennel

Disposition Determination

- Adoption
- Rescue
- Shelter-neuter-Release (SNR)
- Barn Cat
- Euthanasia



Barn Cat vs. Shelter-Neuter-Return (SNR)

BARN CAT

- Unsocial community cat (little to no contact ever with humans)
- Can safely handle pet in shelter through use of safe restraint techniques
- Lives indoor outdoor in an unfamiliar area
- Must wait at the shelter to be adopted out in an appropriate home
- Increase cost of care due to long length of stay
- Increase stress to animal due to longer length of stay in an unfamiliar stressful environment

SNR/TNR

- Unsocial community cat (little to no contact ever with humans)
- Can safely be handle through use of minor safety equipment
- Cannot safely be handled without sedation
- Can be spay/neuter, vaccinate, ear tipped and returned to their original location
- Short stay in the shelter
- Requires fewer shelter resources



Northglenn Cat Outcomes 2018-21

2018	Cats
Adoptions	97
Barn Cat Adoptions	0
Return to Owner	13
Foster	13
Transfer	11
Died	1
Disposal	19
Euthanasia	14- medical
	2-feral

2019	Cats
Adoptions	92
Barn Cat Adoptions	1
Return to Owner	22
Foster	19
Transfer	0
Died	1
Disposal	17
Euthanasia	10- medical
	4-feral

2020	Cats
Adoptions	92
Barn Cat Adoptions	1
Return to Owner	22
Foster	7
Transfer	3
Died	1
Disposal	12
Euthanasia	6- medical
	4-feral

2021	Cats
Adoptions	58
Barn Cat Adoptions	9
Return to Owner	17
Foster	19
Transfer	7
Died	1
Disposal	23
Euthanasia	11- medical
	2-feral

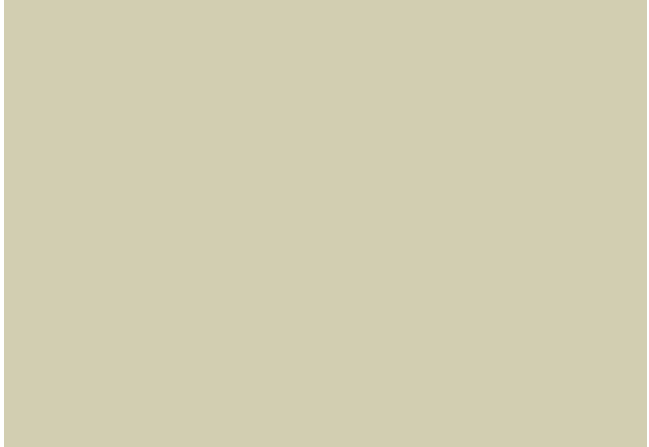
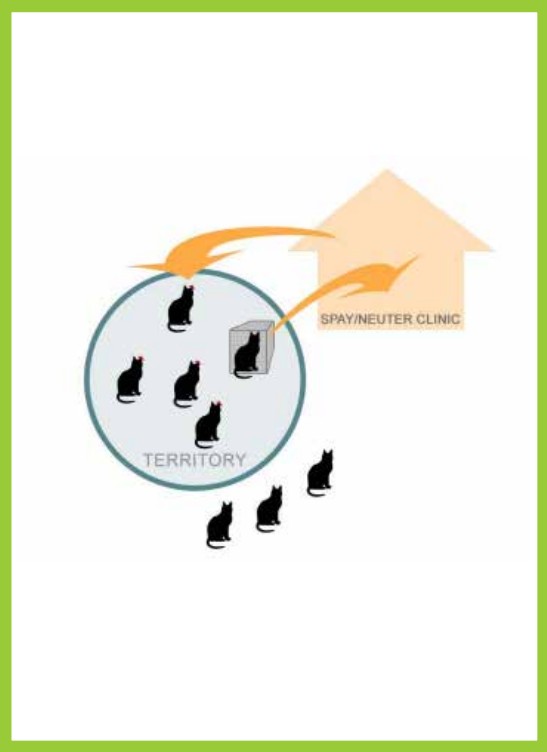
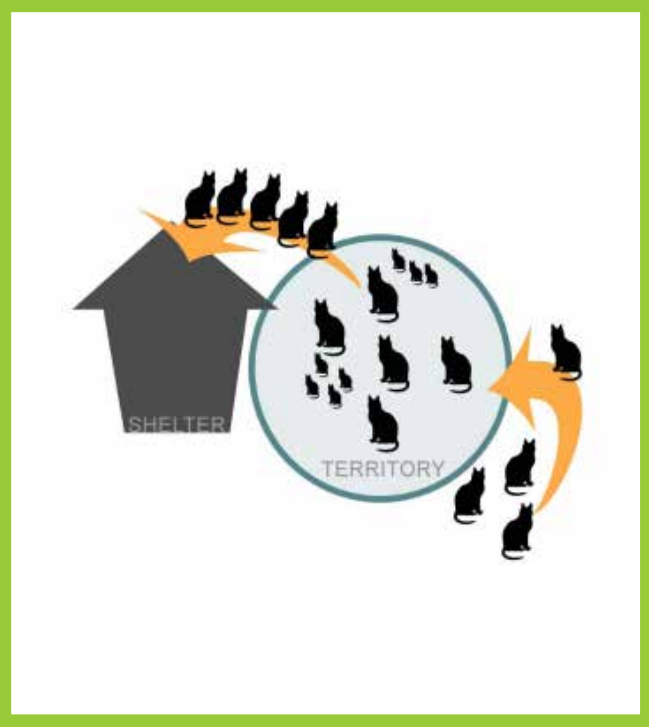


From 2018-2021

Twelve (12) healthy community cats could have been saved from euthanasia if we had been able to return them to Northglenn

Fifteen (15) barn cats could have been returned to their habitats, rather than sit in our shelter for months while we found them a home tolerable to a feral cat





Common Questions

Why not Trap and Remove, Relocate, or Euthanize?

Community cats are drawn to a resource in the area. Trapping and removing cats creates a “vacuum effect” for new cats to enter and restart the cycle

Eradication- trapping and euthanizing community cats

Relocation- trapping and moving community cats to a new location

Both eradication and relocation will ultimately create the “vacuum” effect and the cycle continues!





Common Questions

Why can't Community Cats be Relocated or Adopted Out?

Though they look the same as indoor pets, adult feral cats are essentially wildlife and cannot be socialized to the point of being comfortable with people

Adopting out feral cats is both inhumane and unsafe



Ordinance Language Approach --Adams County

Adams County Pet Animal Definition

1. “Pet animal” means:
 - (a) Any animal owned or kept by a person for companionship or protection or for sale to others for such purposes, pursuant to § 30-15-101(3), C.R.S., as amended.
 - (a) The definition of “pet animal” does not include feral cats, wildlife, livestock used for any purposes or that is stray as defined in § 35-44-101, C.R.S., as amended, or animals that are owned or bought and sold through the efforts of those that are licensed, inspected, or both, by the United States Department of Agriculture, the Colorado Department of Agriculture, or both.



Benefits to Northglenn Community



- REDUCED OR SIMILAR COST TO THE CITY
- FEWER FIELD CALLS FOR OFFICERS



- POSITIVE IMPACT ON PUBLIC HEALTH
- FERAL CATS ARE SPAY/NEUTERED AND VACCINATED



- SPAY/NEUTERED FERAL CATS NO LONGER PRODUCE OFFSPRING à REDUCES POPULATION GROWTH



Benefits to Northglenn Community



Reduction in
Nuisance/Undesired
Behaviors



Northglenn will be
more inline with best
practice regarding the
outcome of healthy
community cats



Aids with
Rodent/pest
population control



Cost Examples: SNR vs. Euthanize or Barn Cat

Euthanasia: RAS holds feral cats for six (6) days prior to euthanasia (or barn cat) outcomes.

- Average cost- per-day to shelter an animal at RAS is currently around \$26.00.
- **Stray wait cost: (\$26.00 X 6 days) = \$156.00 per cat**

SNR: Impounded cats identified as feral would no longer be considered *or charged* as strays.

- Feral cats held a minimum of four days, spayed/neutered, vaccinated, ear-tipped, and returned like a reclaim (return to owner), but the return would be to their known habitat
- **Reclaim cost is currently \$30.00 per cat**

Win-Win: Stopping unnecessary euthanasia of healthy community cats and reducing numbers of sheltered barn cats lowers costs for both city and shelter, and greatly decreases stress and fear for sheltered community cats, thus being more humane.





NACA Position Statement

It is the position of the **National Animal Care & Control Association** that, at every opportunity, officers should will work to educate the public regarding humane and responsible co-existence and care of pet and community cats, to include education on the benefits and resources for spay/neuter and vaccination; responsible feeding and management practices for those choosing to care for community cats; and effective methods to humanely deter and exclude animals from homes, structures and targeted areas. It is the position of NACA that indiscriminate pick up or admission of healthy, free-roaming cats, regardless of temperament, for any purpose other than TNR/SNR, fails to serve commonly held goals of community animal management and protection programs and, as such, is a misuse of time and public funds and should be avoided.

<https://www.nacanet.org/animal-control-intake-of-free-roaming-cats/>



Resources Available to Northglenn Officers

Feline Fix

Thank you.

Questions or Comments?



SPONSORED BY: _____

COUNCILMEMBER'S BILL

ORDINANCE NO.

No. _____
Series of 2022

_____ Series of 2022

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 14 OF THE NORTHGLENN MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING ANIMAL CONTROL AND SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSING ISSUES SURROUNDING FERAL CATS AND OUTDOOR CATS

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. Section 14-1-1 of the Northglenn Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

Section 14-1-1. Definitions. AS USED IN THIS ORDINANCE AND IN THIS CHAPTER 14, THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING MEANINGS: ~~Except as otherwise provided in this Section, the definitions and constructions contained in Sections 1-1-5 and Chapter 11 of the Northglenn Municipal Code shall apply~~

(a) **"ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY" OR "POUND"** MEANS THE ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY FOR THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN, STATE OF COLORADO, OR ANY OTHER PLACE OR FACILITY TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY DESIGNATED BY THE CITY MANAGER OR BY ORDINANCE FOR THE IMPOUNDING OF DOGS, CATS, DOMESTIC ANIMALS, REPTILES, OR ESTRAYS.

(b) **"Animal control officer"** means and includes any animal control officer appointed pursuant to the provisions of this ordinance, and any person authorized by this ordinance to perform the duties of an animal control officer.

(c) **"Apiary"** shall mean place where bee colonies are kept.

(d) **"Bovine animal"** means and includes any animal of the species commonly known as cattle or oxen, or other domestic animal of the genus *Bos*.

(e) **"Cat"** means a mammal of the species *felis domestica* or other species of the family *Felidae*.

(f) **"COMMUNITY CAT"** MEANS A FREE-ROAMING CAT THAT MAY BE FERAL BUT IS NOT WILDLIFE, AND WHO MAY BE CARED FOR BY ONE OR MORE RESIDENTS OF THE IMMEDIATE AREA, WHETHER THOSE RESIDENT(S) ARE KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, AND WHO ARE DISTINGUISHABLE FROM DOMESTIC CATS BECAUSE THEY ARE LESS SOCIALIZED TO HUMANS AND ARE UNADOPTABLE.

(g) **"COMMUNITY CAT CAREGIVER"** MEANS A PERSON WHO, IN ACCORDANCE WITH A GOOD FAIR EFFORT TO CONDUCT TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN, PROVIDES CARE TO A COMMUNITY CAT, INCLUDING FOOD, SHELTER OR MEDICAL CARE. A COMMUNITY CAT CAREGIVER IS NOT THE OWNER OF THE COMMUNITY CAT(S).

(h) **"Chicken"** means a domestic fowl of the subspecies *Domesticus* of the species.

(i) **"Chicken coop"** means a physical structure where chickens are kept and that provides such chickens with protection and shelter.

(j) **"Colony"** shall mean a hive and its equipment and appurtenances, including honeybees, comb, honey pollen and brood.

(k) **"Dog"** means a mammal of the species *canis familiaris* or other species of the family *Canidae*.

(l) **"Domestic animal"** means and includes any domestic quadruped or biped not otherwise defined in this section; and any domestic fowl.

(m) **"EARTIPPING"** MEANS THE REMOVAL OF THE DISTAL ONE-QUARTER OF A COMMUNITY CAT'S LEFT EAR, WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY 3/8-INCH, OR 1 CENTIMETER, IN AN ADULT AND PROPORTIONALLY SMALLER IN A KITTEN. EARTIPPING IS PERFORMED UNDER STERILE CONDITIONS WHILE THE COMMUNITY CAT IS UNDER ANESTHESIA, IN COMPLIANCE WITH ANY APPLICABLE FEDERAL OR STATE LAW, AND UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED VETERINARIAN.

(n) **"Estray"** means and includes any bovine animal, horse, mule or ass found running at large upon public or private lands in the City of Northglenn.

(o) **"Flyway Barrier"** shall mean a permanent vertical structure made of common building materials or natural vegetation that augments a honeybee's flight path. A flyway barrier's utility is to adjust the flight path of honeybees causing them to fly above human contact.

(p) **"Guard dogs"** means and includes every dog kept for the purpose of guarding or protecting real or personal property which by reason of special training, breeding, or the known propensities of such dogs, known or intended by the owner of such premises to be likely to attack, or being spirited.

(q) **"Hive"** shall mean a structure intended for the housing of a honeybee colony.

(r) **"Holding fee"** means the fee provided by ordinance to be charged and collected by the City of Northglenn or its designated agent for the temporary holding and handling of any dog, cat, domestic animal or reptile.

(s) **"Impoundment"** means confinement in an animal control facility, or temporary holding facility, and includes custody or possession by an animal control officer or police officer in any authorized place, vehicle, enclosure or building, pending transfer to an animal control facility or temporary holding facility or such holding facility as City Council shall, by agreement, make use of on behalf of the City or pending any investigation.

(t) **"Manager"** means the City Manager of the City of Northglenn, or the City Manager's authorized representative.

(u) **"Owner"** means and includes every person owning, possessing, keeping, or otherwise having the custody or control of any dog, cat, domestic animal, or reptile, subject to the provisions of ordinances of the City; and every person, of the age of eighteen years or more, in possession or control of premises upon which is kept any such dog, cat, domestic animal or reptile. An owner is not a community cat caregiver.

(v) **"Parcel"** shall mean a contiguous tract of land under common ownership.

(w) **"Pound fee"** means and includes all fees and charges established by the City of Northglenn for the impounding, care, boarding and release of any dog, cat, domestic animal, fowl, or reptile at the animal control facility.

(x) **"Predator resistant"** means building construction methods applied to a coop or shelter that restrict access to its inhabitants or contents. Methods applied may take the form of, but are not limited to, latches, hooks, barrier fencing, netting, or other forms of secondary barriers to the coop.

(y) **"Swarm"** shall mean the process by which a new honeybee colony is formed when the queen bee leaves the colony with a large group of worker bees.

(z) **"Temporary holding facility"** means and includes any building enclosure, vehicle, structure or place designated by the manager for temporary confinement of dogs, cats, domestic animals and reptiles subject to the provisions of this ordinance.

(aa) **"TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN" OR "TNR" MEANS THE NONLETHAL PROCESS OF HUMANELY TRAPPING, STERILIZING, VACCINATING FOR RABIES, EARTIPPING, AND RETURNING COMMUNITY CATS TO THEIR ORIGINAL LOCATION.**

(bb) **"Veterinarian"** means a person licensed to practice veterinary medicine.

Section 2. Section 14-3-2 of the Northglenn Municipal Code is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

Section 14-3-2. Impounding of Cats.

- (a) The animal control officer may seize any cat, whether a community cat or domestic cat, which is found strayed or running at large in any public highway, street or public way, or upon public property.
- (b) The animal control officer may not impound any community cat. Once a community cat is seized, the animal control officer must turn over the community cat to a community cat caregiver for entrance into a Trap-Neuter-Return program.
- (c) If a seized cat is found to be a domestic cat, it must be impounded, and its owner contacted. If it is unclear whether the cat is a community cat or a domestic cat, the cat must be released to a community cat caregiver.

Section 3. Section 14-3-3 of the Northglenn Municipal Code is repealed and reenacted as follows:

Section 14-3-3. Impounding of Animals. The animal control officer may seize and impound any domestic animal except an stray as defined in Section 14-1-1(n), any reptile which is found running at large in the City, or any community cat as defined in Section 14-1-1(f).

Section 4. Section 14-3-8, subsection (d) of the Northglenn Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

Section 14-3-8. Unlawful Acts.

* * *

(d) Owners of cats or other domestic animals found to be at large pursuant to Sections 14-3-8(b) and 14-3-8(c), OR FOUND ON PRIVATE PROPERTY PURSUANT TO SECTION 14-3-4, are liable for all charges incurred by the City AND BY PROPERTY OWNERS PRIOR TO IMPOUNDMENT, including WITHOUT LIMITATION, ~~but not limited to,~~ veterinary fees AND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY DAMAGE. The City AND PROPERTY OWNER(S) may seek reimbursement for charges incurred through restitution or any other available legal remedy.

Section 5. Section 14-3-10 of the Northglenn Municipal Code is repealed and replaced to read as follows:

Section 14-3-10. Duties of Animal Control Officer. In addition to any other duties which may be required from the animal control officer by the administrator or by the ordinances of the City:

(a) The animal control officer may seize and impound any cat, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 14-3-3, which is in violation of any of the provisions or requirements of this ordinance.

(b) The animal control officer may, whenever a violation of the provisions of this ordinance is committed by any person in the Animal Control Officer's presence or whenever the animal control officer has probable cause to believe that a violation of the provisions of this ordinance has been committed by any person, institute proceedings in the Municipal Court of the City of Northglenn for the prosecution of such violation, by issuing a summons and complaint.

(c) The animal control officer may, whenever a violation under the provisions of this ordinance is committed by any person in the animal control officer's presence, or whenever the officer has probable cause to believe that a violation of the provisions of this ordinance has been committed by any person, issue a warning notice requiring the correction or discontinuance of any violation or existing condition within a period of not more than seven (7) days.

(d) The animal control officer may, whenever the animal control officer has reason to believe that any violation of this ordinance has been committed or exists, notify the owner of any cat, or cats, of the existence of such violation and request the discontinuance or correction of such violation within a reasonable time stated within such notice. Such notice may contain a statement that the ordinances of the City provide for issuance of the summons and complaint for violations of the ordinance, and the possible penalties provided by the ordinance.

(e) The animal control officer may enter upon private property for the purpose of seizing a cat to be impounded if the animal control officer is in pursuit of a cat which the animal control officer has probable cause to believe to be in violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance and which has strayed to or taken refuge on such private property in the course of such pursuit, or if such entry onto private property is necessary to remove a danger of imminent bodily harm to a human being, animal, dog or cat.

(f) ~~The animal control officer shall seize and impound any cat which is in violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance.~~ CONSISTENT WITH SECTION 14-3-2, the animal control officer may seize and impound any injured cat found at large in the City, when the owner cannot be immediately located OR WHEN SUCH CAT IS A COMMUNITY CAT.

(g) The animal control officer shall dispose of any dead cats found in the City. If such dead cat has a rabies tag attached, the animal control officer shall notify, or cause to be notified, the owner thereof. The animal control officer shall remove and dispose of the rabies tag attached to such dead cat.

Section 6. Section 14-3-11 of the Northglenn Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

Section 14-3-11. Violations – Penalty.

* * *

(b) Proceedings for prosecution of violations of Section 14-3-8~~(b)~~ shall be commenced only in compliance with the procedural requirements of Section 14-4-14 of this Chapter.

~~(c) — Except as provided in Section 14-3-11(b) of this article,~~ Violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance, Article 3 of Chapter 14 of the Northglenn Municipal Code, shall be punishable as provided in Section 1-1-10(a)(2).

Section 7. A new Section 14-4-17 is hereby enacted as follows:

Section 14-4-17. Trap-Spay-Neuter Program.

(a) Trap-Neuter-Return ("TNR") shall be permitted to be practiced by community cat caregivers, as defined in Section 14-1-1(g), organizations, and animal control, in compliance with any applicable federal or state law. As part of TNR, spay or neuter and vaccination for rabies shall take place under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

(b) A trapped eartipped cat will be released on the site where trapped unless veterinary care is required. An eartipped cat received by a shelter or animal control will be returned to the location where trapped unless veterinary care is required.

(c) Community cat caregivers may reclaim impounded community cats without proof of ownership solely for the purpose of carrying out TNR or returning eartipped community cats to their original locations.

(d) A community cat caregiver who returns a community cat to its original location while conducting TNR does not impermissibly abandon the cat.

(e) TNR shall be the preferred disposition for impounded community cats. Animal control facilities and shelters shall be authorized and encouraged to conduct TNR or to direct impounded community cats to a TNR program.

INTRODUCED, READ, AND ORDERED POSTED this ____ day of _____,
2022.

MEREDITH LEIGHTY
Mayor

ATTEST:

JOHANNA SMALL, CMC
City Clerk

PASSED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING this ____ day of _____,
2022.

MEREDITH LEIGHTY
Mayor

ATTEST:

JOHANNA SMALL, CMC
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

COREY Y. HOFFMANN
City Attorney



Community Cats/At Large Ordinance

Reasons to Remove At Large Ordinance

*Community cats are unowned stray or feral cats that live outdoors. Most community cats are not social to human interaction (feral), which means they are not adoptable.

*TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return, Ear tip) has been proven to be the only humane and effective approach to community cats. Other names used for this method are SNR (Shelter, Neuter, Return, Ear tip) and RTF (Return to Field)

*Citizens, organizations, municipalities and animal shelters across the country and here in the metro area practice TNR to stop cats from multiplying and to save healthy community cats that are too feral to be adopted so they don't have to euthanize them. The process includes having the cats sterilized, vaccinated, ear tipped, and returned to the exact same location so they can continue living in their outdoor homes.

*At Large Ordinances hinder the opportunity for individuals, organizations and animal shelters to practice TNR.

*Riverdale Animal Shelter does SNR here in Adams County for healthy feral unadoptable community cats, when possible, although the At Large Ordinance does not allow this in Northglenn so feral cats are more than likely euthanized if they are relinquished from Northglenn. We need to collaborate on this with Adams County to allow SNR returns.

*Neighborhood nuisances greatly decline when SNR/TNR is practiced-less fighting, less spraying, less yowling, mating stops. The chance of spreading disease drops significantly.

*Riverdale Animal Shelter is required to take in all animals from Adams County. The Adams County Community Report shows Riverdale did 3255 animal adoptions in 2021. When you include intake, holding, medical needs, cleaning, citizen calls, they are busy! Riverdale took in 2533 cats in 2021 (strays, owner relinquish, transfers, other) per PACFA stats.

*The shelter should not be used for hobbyist trappers to get rid of unowned community cats only to have them euthanized or to sit on a low demand barn cat list for months. It should not be used to give the neighbor's cat to Animal Control to teach them a lesson for violating the At Large Ordinance. Cats should only be brought to the shelter when they are considered lost (tame), owner relinquished, injured, or to have TNR/SNR done.

*4056 cats were euthanized in Colorado in 2021. No healthy animal should be euthanized in a shelter when alternatives exist to save them. Fearing humans or lack of space should not be an excuse to euthanize a healthy cat. Community cats are no less important than adoptable cats in fact it should be just as important to budget for SNR so we can end the process of euthanizing healthy cats and stabilize cat population.

*Cats are not going to run out and attack anyone like a dog at large would. Cats will run away and hide.

*Community cat caregivers should never be punished for caring for a community cat that needs help. It would be cruel to make someone stop caring for a cat that needs food and shelter and ignoring them isn't going to make the cats go away.

*Riverdale allowed me to return 60 community cats in 2021. If Riverdale didn't provide SNR, these cats would have been euthanized for no other reason than fearing humans.

*Removing a community cat that is already ear tipped should never be allowed. Ear tipped cats mean someone has spent time and money having the cat TNR'd and is being cared for. Removing them opens a vacuum for unfixed cats to move in, making things worse. Everything accomplished is wasted.

*There are people on Nextdoor who threaten to kill or get rid of cats. This is unacceptable and solves nothing. The At Large Ordinance only encourages this behavior. We need Animal Control to help educate citizens and help TNR efforts.

*There are many humane ways to keep unwanted cats away. Motion sprinklers, coffee grounds, spiked floor runner mats, cat scat mats with harmless spikes, chicken wire, river rock, lemon peels or other citrus smells, etc.

*Research shows when animal shelters practice SNR, it leads to lower intakes, lower euthanasia, and higher live release rates. SNR will do way more to lower overall cat population which will save the city and county tax dollars.

Organizations Supporting SNR/TNR

***NACA (National Animal Care and Control Association)**

It is the position of NACA that indiscriminate pick up or admission of healthy, free-roaming cats, regardless of temperament, for any purpose other than TNR/SNR, **fails to serve commonly held goals of community animal management and protection programs and, as such, is a misuse of time and public funds and should be avoided.**

<https://www.nacenet.org/animal-control-intake-of-free-roaming-cats/?fbclid=IwAR1FIRiceqmd3TRNFfTUCKBXjIOqGWkJfa0UPpHAjEEXGiO3kY4ucBLDU4s>

Denver Animal Shelter policy (No at Large Ordinance, Shelter does SNR)

<https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/denver-animal-shelter/programs/ShelterNeuterReturn.html>

ASPCA position statement (SNR/RTF recommended for feral cats, barn relocation only last resort)

<https://www.asPCA.org/about-us/asPCA-policy-and-position-statements/position-statement-community-cats-and-community-cat>

Denver Dumb Friends (SNR-2020 312 cats SNR returned, 376 relocated/barn cats)

Riverdale Animal Shelter (SNR/TNR done in Unincorporated Adams County)

<https://animalshelter.adcogov.org/community-cats-feral-cats>

Boulder Humane Society (Shelter has a TNR program)

<https://boulderhumane.org/spay-neuter-information/>

<https://boulderhumane.org/animal-laws-licensing/>

Broomfield At Large Ordinance (Cats are considered free roaming animals)

<https://www.broomfield.org/1921/Ordinances#:~:text=All%20residents%20of%20Broomfield%20are,snakes%20and%20ferrets%20are%20allowed.>

Feline Fix in Commerce City

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<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24980808/>

A 2-year program was implemented to capture and neuter at least 50% of the estimated community cats in a single 11.9 km² zip code area, followed by return to the neighborhood or adoption. A total of 2366 cats, representing approximately 54% of the projected community cat population in the targeted area, were captured for the TNR program over the 2-year study period. After 2 years, per capita shelter intake was 3.5-fold higher and per capita shelter euthanasia was 17.5-fold higher in the non-target area than in the target area. Shelter cat impoundment from the target area where 60 cats/1000 residents were neutered annually decreased by 66% during the 2-year study period, compared to a decrease of 12% in the non-target area, where only 12 cats/1000 residents were neutered annually.

<https://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/2019/07/31/study-high-intensity-tnr/>

Over a 10-year period, free-roaming cat populations managed using high-intensity Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) experienced over 30 times fewer preventable cat deaths compared to taking no action, while reducing cat populations. Dr. Julie Levy, Fran Marino Endowed Professor of Shelter Medicine Education at UF, co-authored the study, which was published in the most recent issue of the peer-reviewed open-access journal *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*.

Trap-Neuter-Return Research Compendium from across the country

<https://www.alleycat.org/resources/trap-neuter-return-research-compendium/>

Recommended Ordinance Changes for Northglenn

The following is a sample Ordinance using a mix of examples from other places across the country for the purpose of being able to practice TNR/SNR, protect community cats by preventing unnecessary euthanasia deaths, and to provide citizens the protections they need to protect community cats.

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The changes are in italics.

I recommend consolidating everything together regarding dogs, cats and other animals, but changes are based on how the existing ordinance is written.

Section 14-1-1. Definitions. As used in this ordinance and in the ordinances contained in Chapter 14 of the ordinances of the City of Northglenn.

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"Community cat" A member of the domestic species Felis Catus and shall mean a free-roaming cat who may be cared for by one or more residents of the immediate area who is/are known or unknown; a community cat may or may not be feral. Community cats are not wildlife.

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"Community cat caregiver" shall mean a person who, in accordance with a good faith effort to conduct Trap-Neuter-Return, provides care. This care includes providing food, shelter, or medical care to a community cat. However, community cat caregivers are not the owner, harbinger, controller, or keeper of a community cat.

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"Ear-tipping" shall mean the removal of the distal one-quarter of a community cat's left ear, which is approximately 3/8-inch, or 1 cm, in an adult and proportionally smaller in a kitten. This procedure is performed under sterile conditions while the cat is under anesthesia, in compliance with any applicable federal or state law, and under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Eartips are designed to identify a community cat as being sterilized and lawfully vaccinated for rabies

(h)

"Owner" means and includes every person owning, possessing, keeping, or otherwise having the custody or control of any dog, cat, domestic animal, or reptile, subject to the provisions of ordinances of the City; and every person, of the age of eighteen years or more, in possession or control of premises upon which is kept any such dog, cat, domestic animal or reptile.

Owner does not include community cat caregiver. Community cat caregivers neither create nor maintain the outdoor cat population. Thus, it is unfair to impose on them fines, fees, and other costs of ownership that the law imposes on owners. Community cat caregivers are volunteer good Samaritans.

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1. **Permitted Acts.** *The following actions shall be permitted in City of Northglenn as part of Trap-Neuter-Return:*
 1. *Trapping, for the sole purpose of sterilizing, vaccinating for rabies, and ear tipping community cats, in compliance with any applicable federal or state law, and under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian, where applicable.*
 2. *An ear tipped cat received by local shelters will be returned to the location where trapped unless veterinary care is required. A trapped ear tipped cat will be released on site unless veterinary care is required.*
 3. *Community cat caregivers are empowered to reclaim impounded community cats without proof of ownership solely for the purpose of carrying out Trap-Neuter-Return and/or returning ear tipped community cats to their original locations.*
 4. *A person who returns a community cat to its original location while conducting Trap-Neuter-Return is not deemed to have abandoned the cat.*
 5. *Shelter-Neuter-Return shall be the preferred disposition for impounded community cats. Animal control and the local shelter are authorized and encouraged to conduct Shelter-Neuter-Return or to direct impounded community cats to a Trap-Neuter-Return program.*

Section 14-3-2. Impounding of Cats. REMOVE entire section

Section 14-3-3. Impounding of Animals. The animal control officer may seize and impound any domestic animal except an estray as defined in Section 14-1-1(g), or any reptile which is found running at large in the City.

- (a) The animal control officer shall check all animals for microchip that are found or relinquished to them on every interaction to determine ownership and allow the owner or caretaker to reclaim the animal or inform them of their status.*
- (b) If a cat relinquished to animal control or the local shelter is deemed feral, unsocial, unadoptable and healthy, they will be required to have the cat fixed, vaccinated, ear tipped, (Shelter, Neuter, Returned-SNR) and returned to the exact same location so they can continue living in their outdoor home.*
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Section 14-3-6b. *Spaying and Neutering*

(a) It shall be unlawful to own or keep in the city any dog or cat over the age of 6 months that has not been spayed or neutered except having an intact permit.

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14-3-7. Exhibition of Rabies Tag

REMOVE or have this notation under this ordinance.

Community cats that have been ear tipped shall be exempt from the requirements of section 14-3-7.

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Remove everything about cats in 14-3-8 b

Cats are considered free roaming and do not pertain to the At Large ordinance.

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Organizations Supporting SNR/TNR

***NACA (National Animal Care and Control Association)**

It is the position of NACA that indiscriminate pick up or admission of healthy, free-roaming cats, regardless of temperament, for any purpose other than TNR/SNR, **fails to serve commonly held goals of community animal management and protection programs and, as such, is a misuse of time and public funds and should be avoided.**

<https://www.nacanet.org/animal-control-intake-of-free-roaming-cats/?fbclid=IwAR1FIRiceqmd3TRNFFtUCKBXjI0qGWkJfa0UPpHAjEEXGiO3kY4ucBLDU4s>

Denver Animal Shelter policy (No at Large Ordinance, Shelter does SNR)

<https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/denver-animal-shelter/programs/ShelterNeuterReturn.html>

ASPCA position statement (SNR/RTF recommended for feral cats, barn relocation only last resort)

<https://www.asPCA.org/about-us/asPCA-policy-and-position-statements/position-statement-community-cats-and-community-cat>

Denver Dumb Friends (SNR-2020 312 cats SNR returned, 376 relocated/barn cats)

Riverdale Animal Shelter (SNR/TNR done in Unincorporated Adams County)

<https://animalshelter.adcogov.org/community-cats-feral-cats>

Boulder Humane Society (Shelter has a TNR program)

<https://boulderhumane.org/spay-neuter-information/>

<https://boulderhumane.org/animal-laws-licensing/>

Broomfield At Large Ordinance (Cats are considered free roaming animals)

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Feline Fix in Commerce City

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Reasons To Remove At Large Ordinance for Cats

*Community cats are unowned stray or feral cats that live outdoors. Most community cats are not social to human interaction (feral), which means they are not adoptable.

*TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return, Ear tip) has been proven to be the only humane and effective approach to community cats. Other names used for this method are SNR (Shelter, Neuter, Return, Ear tip) and RTF (Return to Field)

*Citizens, organizations, municipalities and animal shelters across the country and here in the metro area practice TNR to stop cats from multiplying and to save healthy community cats that are too feral to be adopted so they don't have to euthanize them. The process includes having the cats sterilized, vaccinated, ear tipped, and returned to the exact same location so they can continue living in their outdoor homes.

*At Large Ordinances hinder the opportunity for individuals, organizations and animal shelters to practice TNR.

*Riverdale Animal Shelter does SNR here in Adams County for healthy feral unadoptable community cats, when possible, although the At Large Ordinance does not allow this in Northglenn so feral cats are more than likely euthanized if they are relinquished from Northglenn. We need to collaborate on this with Adams County to allow SNR returns.

*Neighborhood nuisances greatly decline when SNR/TNR is practiced-less fighting, less spraying, less yowling, mating stops. The chance of spreading disease drops significantly.

*Removing, relocating, or killing a cat accomplishes nothing and just creates a vacuum for other unfixed cats to move into the same territory and breed right back. Kittens can become pregnant at 6 months and have up to 2-3 litters a year. Same with their kittens. Stabilizing the territory with TNR is the only thing that works.

*Riverdale Animal Shelter is required to take in all animals from Adams County. The Adams County Community Report shows Riverdale did 3255 animal adoptions in 2021. When you include intake, holding, medical needs, cleaning, citizen calls, they are busy! Riverdale took in 2533 cats in 2021 (strays, owner relinquish, transfers, other) per PACFA stats.

*The shelter should not be used for hobbyist trappers to get rid of unowned community cats only to have them euthanized or to sit on a low demand barn cat list for months. It should not be used to give the neighbor's cat to Animal Control to teach them a lesson for violating the At Large Ordinance. Cats should only be brought to the shelter when they are considered lost (tame), owner relinquished, injured, or to have TNR/SNR done.

*4056 cats were euthanized in Colorado in 2021. No healthy animal should be euthanized in a shelter when alternatives exist to save them. Fearing humans or lack of space should not be an excuse to euthanize a healthy cat. Community cats are no less important than adoptable cats in fact it should be just as important to budget for SNR so we can end the process of euthanizing healthy cats and stabilize cat population.

*Cats are not going to run out and attack anyone like a dog at large would. Cats will run away and hide.

*Community cat caregivers should never be punished for caring for a community cat that needs help. It would be cruel to make someone stop caring for a cat that needs food and shelter and ignoring them isn't going to make the cats go away.

*Riverdale allowed me to return 60 community cats in 2021. If Riverdale didn't provide SNR, these cats would have been euthanized for no other reason than fearing humans.

*Removing a community cat that is already ear tipped should never be allowed. Ear tipped cats mean someone has spent time and money having the cat TNR'd and is being cared for. Removing them opens a vacuum for unfixed cats to move in, making things worse. Everything accomplished is wasted.

*There are people on Nextdoor who threaten to kill or get rid of cats. This is unacceptable and solves nothing. The At Large Ordinance only encourages this behavior. We need Animal Control to help educate citizens and help TNR efforts.

*There are many humane ways to keep unwanted cats away. Motion sprinklers, coffee grounds, spiked floor runner mats, cat scat mats with harmless spikes, chicken wire, river rock, lemon peels or other citrus smells, etc.

*Research shows when animal shelters practice SNR, it leads to lower intakes, lower euthanasia, and higher live release rates. SNR will do way more to lower overall cat population which will save the city and county tax dollars.

Research and Studies

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5946139/>

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The present study examines changes in feline intake and euthanasia, as well as impacts on associated metrics, at municipal shelters located in six diverse U.S. communities after integrated programs of RTF and targeted TNVR (collectively termed "community cat programs," CCPs) were implemented. A total of 72,970 cats were enrolled in six 3-year CCPs, 71,311 of whom (98%) were sterilized, vaccinated, and returned to their location of capture or adopted. A median reduction of 32% in feline intake, as well as a median decline of 83% in feline euthanasia occurred across the six CCPs; median feline live-release rate increased by 53% as a result of these simultaneous declines in cat admissions and euthanasia.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24980808/>

A 2-year program was implemented to capture and neuter at least 50% of the estimated community cats in a single 11.9 km² zip code area, followed by return to the neighborhood or adoption. A total of 2366 cats, representing approximately 54% of the projected community cat population in the targeted area, were captured for the TNR program over the 2-year study period. After 2 years, per capita shelter intake was 3.5-fold higher and per capita shelter euthanasia was 17.5-fold higher in the non-target area than in the target area. Shelter cat impoundment from the target area where 60 cats/1000 residents were neutered annually decreased by 66% during the 2-year study period, compared to a decrease of 12% in the non-target area, where only 12 cats/1000 residents were neutered annually.

<https://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/2019/07/31/study-high-intensity-tnr/>

Over a 10-year period, free-roaming cat populations managed using high-intensity Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) experienced over 30 times fewer preventable cat deaths compared to taking no action, while reducing cat populations. Dr. Julie Levy, Fran Marino Endowed Professor of Shelter Medicine Education at UF, co-authored the study, which was published in the most recent issue of the peer-reviewed open-access journal *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*.

Trap-Neuter-Return Research Compendium from across the country

<https://www.alleycat.org/resources/trap-neuter-return-research-compendium/>



Trap-Neuter-Return Cost Savings Calculator

Supporting TNR Programs in Adams County for Community Cats
Can Save Taxpayers Millions of Dollars

Estimated Human Population in Adams County	497,673
Total number of Cats	156,735
Estimated number of Free-Roaming Cats	71,096
Estimated Number of TNR'd Cats	17,774
Estimated Number of Unaltered Free-Roaming Cats	53,322

Estimated Costs Associated with Spay/Neuter and Return per Cat

Trap/Fieldwork	\$60.00
Spay/Neuter	\$50.00
Physical Exams	\$40.00
Vaccinations	\$20.00
Estimated Cost of TNR in Adams County per Cat	\$170.00

Estimated costs Associated with Discount Spay/Neuter and Return per Cat

Trap/Fieldwork	\$60.00
Packaged TNR Procedure	\$20.00
Estimated Cost of Discounted TNR Package in Adams County	\$80.00

Estimated Costs Associated with Trap & Remove per Cat

Trap/Enforcement	\$65.00
Sheltering	\$50.00
Food/Supplies	\$20.00
Lab Tests	\$15.00
Euthanasia	\$40.00
Estimated Cost of Removing Community Cats in Adams County per Cat	\$190.00

Cost of Trap & Remove for Taxpayers in Adams County **\$10,131,180**

(Cost of removal x Number of Unaltered Free-Roaming Cats)

Estimated Savings in Adams County with Discounted Spay/Neuter & TNR **\$4,265,760**

(Cost of trap & remove – Discounted TNR x Number of Unaltered Free-Roaming Cats)