

Jacksonville, Florida

ORDINANCE 2010-527-E, SECTION 4

Sec. 462.102. - Definitions.

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- (i) *Community Cat* means any free-roaming cat that 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 shall be distinguished from other cats by being sterilized and ear tipped; qualified community cats are exempt from licensing, stray and at-large provisions of this ordinance and may be exempt from other provisions directed toward owned animals.

Sec. 462.312. - Feeding of cats and dogs outdoors.

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(b) **Community Cat Management Initiatives:** The City of Jacksonville recognizes the need for innovation in addressing the issues presented by feral, free-roaming and other community cats. To that end it recognizes that there are community care givers of cats, and acknowledges that properly managed community cats may be part of the solution to the continuing euthanasia of cats; and establishes the following requirements:

- (1) All managed community cat colonies/groups must be maintained on private property of the caregiver, or with permission on the private property of another landowner (including city, state, and federal public property).
- (2) A free community cat caregiver certification program may be developed to educate people about community cats, the importance of a veterinary provider relationship to best address community cat needs, common disease(s) & proper care, good management practices, and maintenance of the community cats. The educational program shall be developed by community veterinarians, community cat caregivers, ACPS and citizens through an ad hoc advisory committee that will be disbanded upon recommendation to the Chief of ACPS. The Chief of ACPS may remove any member at any time for any reason within his/her discretion. Periodically, ad hoc committees will be convened to review, revise and update the program as needed.
- (3) All cats that are part of community cat management programs must be sterilized, vaccinated against the threat of rabies, and ear-tipped (preferable on the left ear) for easy identification; if these requirements are met the community cat is exempted from licensing, stray, at-large and possibly other provisions of this

ordinance that apply to owned animals.

(4) If a person is providing care for the community cats, he or she is required to provide certain necessities on a regular/ongoing basis, including, but not limited to, proper nutrition and medical care as needed. If medical care is unavailable or too expensive, the caregiver must not allow the cat to suffer.

(i) Food must be provided in the proper quantity for the number of cats being managed and is to be supplied no less than once per day. Food must be maintained in proper feeding containers.

(ii) Water, if supplied, must be clean, potable and free from debris and algae.

(iii) If shelter is provided, it shall be unobtrusive, safe, and of the proper size for the cat(s).

(c) Violations of this section are subject to a fine of not less than the amount designated in Chapter 462, Part 18.