

# Delaware City, Delaware

## CODE OF ORDINANCES ch. 24 §§ 24-2 & 24-35

### Section 24-2 Definitions

For the purpose of this Chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning respectively ascribed to them by this Section:

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e. Community Cat: A cat that is abandoned, stray, lost, or feral. A community cat is not to be classified as a Public Nuisance Animal under subsection (1) below merely for being repeatedly found at large.

f. Community Cat Caregiver: A person who, in accordance with Trap-Neuter-Return, provides care, including, food, shelter or medical care to a Community Cat. A Community Cat Caregiver shall not be considered the owner, harbinger, controller, or keeper of a Community Cat.

g. Eartipping: The removal of the 1/4 inch tip of a Community Cat's left ear, performed while the cat is under anesthesia, to identify the Community Cat as being sterilized and lawfully vaccinated for rabies.

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n. Trap-Neuter-Return: The process of humanely trapping, sterilizing, vaccinating for rabies, ear tipping, and returning Community Cats to their original location.

### Section 24-35 Community Cat Initiative

a. Purpose: Delaware City recognizes the need for innovation in addressing the issues presented by Community Cats. To that end, it recognizes that Trap-Neuter-Return is an effective and humane method to manage, and over time, reduce the population of Community Cats.

b. Trap-Neuter-Return shall be permitted, and Community Cat Caregivers, organizations, city staff, the Delaware Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and animal control officers, are hereby permitted to carry out Trap-Neuter-Return. Community Cat Caregivers shall be responsible for the costs (if any) associated with Trap-Neuter-Return that they choose or cause to be performed. Community Cat Caregivers shall have immunity from any claim or suit for damages as a result of their actions to follow the Trap-Neuter-Return procedure.

c. An eartipped cat received by local shelters will be returned to the location where trapped after neutering unless further veterinary care is required or a home is found for the cat (unless found to be a Public Nuisance Animal). A trapped, eartipped cat, unless

found to be a Public Nuisance Animal, will be released on site unless further veterinary care is required, in which case the cat will be returned once it no longer needs care.

d. Community Cat Caregivers may reclaim impounded Community Cats if eartipped or for Trap-Neuter-Return without proof of ownership.

e. Community Cat Caregivers who perform Trap-Neuter-Return or return eartipped cats shall not be deemed in violation of Section 24-35.3