



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING

#15-1515

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: December 1, 2015

TITLE: County Animal Care Regulations Pertaining to Community Cats

On September 10, 2015, the Board of County Commissioners enacted Ordinance #2015-37 Amending Chapter 4, Broward County Code of Ordinances pertaining to care and regulation of dogs and cats.

The County has begun to implement a community cat management program, known nationally in the animal welfare community as Return-to-Field (RTF). This program enables staff to sterilize ear-tip, vaccinate against rabies, and return healthy community cats to their point of pick-up. The intent of the RTF program is to have a significant and positive impact on the live-release rate for community cats which are typically not suitable for adoption and to stabilize cat reproduction resulting in cat population reduction over time.

Implementation of this program will require all persons seeking to drop-off a community cat at the shelter to identify the point of pick-up address for the cat and to sign an acknowledgment indicating awareness that the cat will be returned to the point of pick in accordance with the Broward County Ordinance No. 2015-37 (Exhibit 1). If a person dropping off a cat resides in a municipality which has regulations in place prohibiting the release of community cats, the County will decline to accept the cat. The restriction is consistent with Chapter 4. 28 (i), of the September 30, 2015 Code which states: "A municipality that adopts and enforces additional regulations within the boundaries of such municipalities governing the care and control of dog and cats, other than those regulations provided in this chapter, shall be responsible for all costs of the implementation and enforcement of such additional municipal regulations."

Currently, the City of Fort Lauderdale has no regulation in place prohibiting the release of community cats.

Resource Impact

There is a no fiscal impact to the City associated with this item.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the Neighborhood Enhancement Cylinder of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Goal 5: Be a community of strong, beautiful, and healthy neighborhoods.
- Objective 2: Enhance the beauty, aesthetics, and environmental quality of neighborhoods.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Here*.

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – Broward County Ordinance No. 2015-37

Prepared by: Ryan Henderson, City Manager's Office

Department Interim Director: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager