

Fort Wayne Community Cat Program Guidelines



Dear Community Cat Provider,

Thank you for requesting guidelines required of a Community Cat Provider (CCP). This collaborative, community-wide program will ultimately reduce cat overpopulation, minimize neighborhood nuisances, and save lives. This document will outline the details required of a CCP. Animal Welfare Organizations such as Humane Fort Wayne may have grant funding available for spay/neuter, microchip, and rabies vaccination required for a free roaming cat to be transitioned to a Community Cat. Animal Care and Control (Department) is working with these Animal Welfare Organizations to assist with transporting the cats for the services and ensuring all requirements are fulfilled prior to release back into the community. Contact information regarding potential funding assistance is listed at the end of this document.

A Community Cat Provider (CCP) is defined in the City of Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control Ordinance Chapter 91.001 as a person who provides food, water, shelter or otherwise cares for Community Cats and satisfies the Department's Community Cat Provider administrative rules and the requirements of Section 91.041 of this Chapter. Any person providing assistance to Community Cats within these guidelines shall not be considered the Owner or Harboring of a Community Cat. Any person feeding or providing any level of care to free roaming cats is required to follow the guidelines listed below with the ultimate goal of achieving a population of spayed and neutered Community Cats. **Feeding free roaming cats without adhering to the administrative rules provided may result in enforcement action. This is necessary to prevent neighborhood nuisances and to protect the overall integrity of the program.**

Administrative Rules

A Community Cat Provider is required to:

- (1) Work with an Animal Welfare Organization and or the Department to confine a Free Roaming Cat for surgical sterilization, ear tipping, and vaccination for rabies by a licensed veterinarian. In addition, the cat must be microchipped with the documentation provided to the Department prior to release back to the community to ensure a safe return to its territory should it be impounded to the Department. Grant monies may be available to assist with these expenditures.
- (2) Contact the department to seek assistance for a Community Cat requiring humane euthanasia for serious illness or injury. A CCP may choose to seek veterinary care for a Community Cat at their own expense.
- (3) Make reasonable efforts to work with the Department or designated Animal Welfare Organization to resolve nuisance complaints using humane deterrents and/or removal of Community Cat(s) identified as a Public Nuisance; (see resources available)
- (4) Community Cat Provider(s) found to be in violation of this Chapter or managing an excess number of Community Cats as determined by the Department may have their Community Cat Provider privileges revoked by the Department.

Food: Nutritional and Seasonal Considerations

- Food may only be provided between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00am daily.
- To ensure the proper nutrition, only dry or moist food specifically designed for cats is to be used.
- The volume of food provided will depend on the number of Community Cats as well as their size.
 - Gauge how much to provide by observing the cats feeding behaviors. If the cats eat all of the food within 15 minutes or less, more may be needed.
 - Not all of the cats will eat at the same time. The stronger personalities will leave food for those remaining. Do not interfere with this social scale, it is perfectly normal.
- Feeding stations must be free of insects, mold, and debris.
 - The food dishes must be kept in one location out of public view to ensure ease of cleanup and an orderly appearance.
 - Garbage, trash, and or disposable food dishes must be removed daily to maintain sanitary feeding conditions.
- All uneaten food must be removed within 30 minutes from when provided to avoid attracting insects or wildlife.
- Winter months will require an increase in the volume of food provided to maintain energy levels.
 - Moist food will likely freeze during inclement weather and should be warmed prior to feeding.
 - Maintaining the feeding schedule and location as outlined above will ensure the cats know where and when they will be fed.
- These feeding stations are also the most likely location to achieve humane trapping of cats that require processing as a Community Cat.

Water

- Provide potable (clean) water daily and during all weather conditions.
 - Water should be located in the same area to ensure the cats know where to obtain it.
 - During cold weather, water must not be frozen.
 - Use heated or dark colored bowls in direct sunlight to avoid freezing.

Shelter

- Providing shelter is optional for a CCP, but has advantage for the cats, especially in winter weather. Shelters keep feral cat colonies comfortable in cold and other harsh or severe weather conditions. Placing discreet shelters in quiet locations away from foot traffic helps keep cats from taking shelter in places where they are in danger or not welcome. Additional information reference appropriate shelters for Community Cats may be found at www.FWACC.org and on links provided at that site.
- Community cats may be temporarily brought inside a CCP's residence, for their protection, in the event of severe environmental conditions or medical necessity.

Resources:

Humane Fort Wayne

4914 S. Hanna St.
260-744-0454
www.humanefw.org

Animal Care and Control

3020 Hillegas Rd.
260-427-1244 option #6
www.fwacc.org