

Joshua Animal Services Community Cat Management Policy

Section 1. Purpose and Authority

This policy is adopted to protect public health, safety, and welfare; to minimize the spread of zoonotic disease, including rabies; and to ensure the humane and controlled management of community cats within the City of Joshua. Joshua Animal Services is authorized to enforce all applicable municipal ordinances related to animal control and public safety.

Section 2. Definitions

- **Community Cat:** Any unowned, free-roaming cat.
- **Caregiver:** An individual who provides care for a community cat colony.
- **Nuisance Animal:** Any animal that creates a disturbance, poses a threat to public health or safety, causes property damage, or violates city ordinances.

Section 3. Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Requirements

Community cats may be maintained outdoors only if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The cat has been sterilized.
2. The cat has a visible ear tip indicating sterilization.
3. The cat has been vaccinated against rabies in accordance with state law.
4. The cat is microchipped with current caregiver information.

Failure to meet all requirements shall constitute a violation of this policy and may result in impoundment.

Section 4. Caregiver Limitations

A caregiver may manage no more than five (5) community cats. Community cats registered under a caregiver shall not count toward the maximum number of personal pets permitted by ordinance. Caregivers are responsible for ensuring that all managed cats remain compliant and do not become a nuisance.

Section 5. Feeding Restrictions

Feeding of community cats is strictly limited to the active trapping, treatment, and recovery process. Ongoing or unattended feeding is prohibited. Unauthorized feeding is considered a contributing factor to colony growth and the “vacuum effect” and may result in enforcement action.

Section 6. Nuisance Determination and Enforcement

Any community cat determined by Joshua Animal Services to be a nuisance shall be subject to enforcement action. Upon notification, the caregiver shall have seventy-two (72) hours to: Retrieve the animal, and remove and relocate the animal outside the corporate city limits of Joshua.

Failure to comply within the specified timeframe will result in the animal being subject to impoundment and disposition in accordance with applicable laws and ordinances.