

ORDINANCE NO. 25-106

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SWEENY, TEXAS, AMENDING THE ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SWEENY IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC SAFETY, SANITATION AND WELFARE; ADDING A NEW SECTION 95.16 TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SWEENY, TEXAS, PROVIDING A TRAP, NEUTER, RETURN PROGRAM FOR CATS WITHIN THE CITY; AND PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL TAKE EFFECT AND BE IN FORCE AT THE DATE OF ITS PASSAGE.

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF SWEENY, TEXAS:**

Section 1:

Chapter 95 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Sweeny, Texas, entitled “ANIMALS”, is hereby amended by adding a new Section 95.16 which shall after the effective date of this ordinance read as follows:

“SECTION 95.16 MANAGEMENT OF CAT POPULATION

A. Definitions. For the purpose of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

1. “Community cat” is a member of the domestic species *Felis Catus* and shall mean a free-roaming cat who may be cared for by one or more residents of the immediate area who is/are unknown; a community cat may or may not be feral. Community cats are not wildlife.
2. “Community cat caregiver” shall mean a person who, in accordance with and pursuant to a policy of Trap-Neuter-Return, provides care, including food, shelter or medical care to a community cat, while not being considered the owner, harborer, controller or keeper of a community cat.

3. “Eartipping” shall mean the removal of the distal one-quarter of a community cat’s left ear, which is approximately 3/8 inch, or 1 cm, in an adult and proportionally smaller in a kitten. This procedure is performed under sterile conditions while the cat is under anesthesia, in compliance with any applicable federal or state law, and under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Eartips are designed to identify a community cat as being sterilized and lawfully vaccinated for rabies.

4. “Trap-Neuter-Return” shall mean the process of humanely trapping, sterilizing, vaccinating for rabies, eartipping and returning community cats to their original location.

B. Permitted acts. The following actions shall be permitted in the City of Sweeny as part of Trap-Neuter-Return:

1. Trapping, for the sole purpose of sterilizing, vaccinating for rabies and eartipping community cats, in compliance with all applicable laws and the terms of this ordinance.
2. An eartipped cat received by local shelter will be returned to the location where trapped unless veterinary care is required. A trapped, eartipped cat will be released on site unless veterinary care is required.
3. Community cat caregivers are empowered to reclaim impounded community ownership solely for the purpose of carrying out Trap-Neuter-Return and/or returning community cats to their original locations.
4. A person who returns a community cat to its original location while conducting Trap-Neuter-Return is not deemed to have abandoned the cat.

5. Trap-Neuter-Return shall be the preferred disposition for impounded community cats. Animal control and the local shelter are authorized and encouraged to conduct Trap-Neuter-Return or to direct impounded community cats to a Trap-Neuter-Return program.

6. The City of Sweeny hereby authorizes the administration to contract with local non-profits (for example, BAAB, a Texas non profit corporation) to help in the administration of the Trap-Neuter-Return program.”

Section 2:

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby expressly repealed.

Section 3:

This ordinance shall be effective from and after its passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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DUSTY HOPKINS, Mayor of the City of  
Sweeny, Texas

ATTEST:

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KAYDI SMITH, City Secretary