How to be an Advocate for Policy Change

They deserve a better life.

October 20th, 2013
All About Animals Rescue
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www.allaboutanimalsrescue.org
TNR and the Law

Communities all over the nation have ordinances in place which promote Trap-Neuter-Return and protect cats. But there are also ordinances out there that make TNR more difficult for caregivers.

You do not have to pass a law to perform TNR, but you can have a positive impact on the welfare of community cats by changing policy in your city/township to promote this process.

1. Educate yourself on the TNR process, advantages of TNR and failed alternatives to TNR
2. Research your local ordinances and how animal control is governed in your city
3. Find a model ordinance you can use to modify
4. Introduce your ordinance to city council
Research Your Local Ordinances
-Print Resources-

Clerk’s Office
- Visit your county or city clerk’s office and ask for a copy of your local ordinances. **This will be the most up-to-date version.**

Public Library
- The reference librarian will be able to help you find local ordinances

Law Library
- Your local courthouse may have a library that you can utilize.

Research your local ordinances and how animal control is governed in your city.
Research Your Local Ordinances

**Online Resources**

| Local Government Website | • Check for an ordinance link on your city’s government website  
|                          | • Many cities use Municode |
| Local Shelter Website    | • Sometimes your local shelter will have ordinances collected on their website |
| Other Online Resources   | • When in doubt use Google! |

2. **Research** your local ordinances and how animal control is governed in your city.
**Understand Your Local Ordinances**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Keyword</strong></th>
<th><strong>Search</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Feed(ing):</strong></td>
<td>The most common type of ordinance that could affect your ability to legally perform TNR is an ordinance that bans feeding of...</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Harboring:</strong></td>
<td>This type of ordinance can limit the amount of pets/animals you ‘harbor’ (home/shelter)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nuisance:</strong></td>
<td>This type of ordinance protects people from noise, odor, litter, etc.</td>
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*Other keywords to look for: cat, possess, keep, destruction, rodent*

*Keep in mind - Most ordinances that work against TNR were designed to prevent people from hoarding animals or attracting rodents!!*
How is Animal Control Governed?

Elected Officials
- City Council
- City Hall
- Mayors Office

City and/or County run...

Contractor
- Nonprofit
  - SPCA
  - Humane Society
- For-Profit
  - Funding Through Government

Government Agency
- Public Works
- Public Health Department
- Heath and Human Services
- Sheriff/Police
- Animal Welfare Division
  - Funding Through Government

Funding Through
- Grants
- Foundations
- Donations
- Government

Research your local ordinances and how animal control is governed in your city.
3. **Find** a model ordinance you can use to modify
Introduce Your Ordinance

Best Practices for Ordinance Introduction and Follow-Up:

- Know your city council
  - Understand friends vs. foes
    - Go to meetings, talk to people in the know, research!
    - Find a sympathetic member to introduce the ordinance

- Reach out to allies to assist you:
  - Humane societies
  - Wildlife rehab
  - Sanctuaries
  - Shelters
  - Other grassroots activist

- Lobby!
  - Provide the council with information on TNR
  - Mobilize a group to spread the word
  - Pass out fliers
Resources

Educate Yourself
http://www.allaboutanimalsrescue.org/stray-cats/
http://www.neighborhoodcats.org/HOW_TO_WHAT_IS_TNR
http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/feral_cats/

Researching Local Ordinances:
http://www.law.msu.edu/library/substantive/local.html
http://www.municode.com/
www.google.com

Find a Model Ordinance
http://www.allaboutanimalsrescue.org/stray-cats/resources/

Other General Ordinance Websites:
http://www.bornfreeusa.org/b2a2_ordinance.php
Research Your Local Ordinances

-Online Resources-

http://www.law.msu.edu/library/substantive/local.html
Research Your Local Ordinances
-Online Resources-

www.google.com
Research Your Local Ordinances

Online Resources

Keywords:
- Cats
- Harbor
- Feed
Research Your Local Ordinances - Online Resources -
Research Your Local Ordinances

Warren:

Sec. 7-103. Number of cats harbored restricted; nuisance.

It shall be unlawful for any owner or tenant to possess, harbor, shelter or keep more than three (3) adult cats, at any residential dwelling unit or commercial or industrial premises, excepting kennels, veterinary hospitals and pet shops. For the purpose of this section, an adult cat shall be deemed to be any cat six (6) months or older. It shall also be unlawful to maintain any cat or cats so as to create a nuisance by way of noise, odor or otherwise.

(Code 1967, § 4-922(1); Ord. No. 80-340, § 11, 6-9-87)

Royal Oak:

§ 484-14 Keeping of livestock; removal of animals.

A. No person shall keep any livestock, or any other animals, in the City in such a manner as to become a public nuisance. No person shall keep any horses, cattle, sheep, goats, hogs or similar animals in the City without first obtaining a permit therefor. Application for such permit shall be made to the City Clerk upon blanks furnished for the purpose. Such application shall state the location where such livestock or