

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW 4-2018

A Local Law amending Chapter 75 (Animals) of the Village of Ossining Code.

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Ossining as follows:

Article V (Feral Cats) is added to Chapter 75 with new matter underlined.

Section 1. § 75-29 Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

CARETAKER

A person who provides care for a feral cat colony, including feeding, trapping, transporting for spay/neutering, transporting for veterinary care as needed, and other actions needed for a healthy feral cat colony in compliance with local ordinances and operating procedures.

COLONIES

One or more feral cats that congregate, more or less, together as a unit and share a common food source.

FERAL CAT

For the purposes of this article, shall mean any unowned and homeless or stray cat.

SPONSOR ORGANIZATION

For the purpose of this article, a nonprofit organization designated by the Village Manager in consultation with the Chief of Police that has expertise in organizing and operating feral cat colonies and in working with volunteers to conduct such feral cat colonies in a comprehensive healthful manner in compliance with this article.

Section 2. § 75-30 Unlawful activity.

sponsoring organization on forms to be provided by the sponsoring organization

and the Village It shall be unlawful for any person to intentionally provide food, water or other forms of sustenance to a feral cat or feral cat colony unless the person has been registered with the, as a caretaker for feral cats.

Section 3. § 75-31 Documentation and rules.

In furtherance of the Village's program to control the proliferation of feral cat colonies in the Village in a humane manner, persons who are interested in documenting as a caretaker of feral cats shall do so by executing a feral cat documentation form. By doing so, the caretaker agrees to the following:

- A. Assure responsibility and arrangements for feeding the cat or colony regularly throughout the year, including weekends, holidays and absences of the documented caretaker person(s).
- B. Cooperate in the regular and frequent trapping of cats over the age of 12 weeks to have them spayed or neutered and vaccinated against rabies.
- C. Arrange to have symptomatically ill or injured cats brought for veterinary care.
- D. Identify all trapped spayed/neutered cats by tipping their ears.
- E. Arrange to have all cats vaccinated for rabies.
- F. Feral cat feeding stations and shelters shall not be located on the property of any person or business without the written approval of the property owner and/or business which written approval shall be maintained by the caretaker.
- G. Feral cat feeding stations and shelters shall not be located upon any public property owned by the Village of Ossining with the exception of the seven shelters and one feeding station currently located on Village owned property on Brandreth Street. Those seven shelters and one feeding station shall not be increased in size and the current caretaker for those shelters and feeding station shall register with the Village pursuant to this article. All other feral cat shelters and feeding stations located on Village property shall be removed from Village owned property as of the effective date of this Local Law.
- H. Food for feral cat colonies shall not be provided in a manner that attracts cats not in the colony or provides food for rodents, raccoons or other wild animals. Food shall be removed within one hour of feeding.

- I. Persons who want to participate as caregivers shall attend a mandatory training class operated by the sponsoring organization or other recognized training organization, and this course shall be a prerequisite to registration.
- J. Each caretaker shall annually register with the Village Clerk, on a form to be provided.
- K. Once registered, the Clerk will provide the caretaker a sticker designating the caretaker as registered. The sticker is to be displayed prominently on the property which is hosting the colony so that Village employees will be able to recognize the caretaker as registered with the Village.

Section 4. § 75-32 Sponsoring organization.

- A. As designated by the Village Manager, the sponsoring organization shall develop standard operating procedures for caring for feral cat colonies. These standard operating procedures shall be approved by the Village Manager upon consultation with the Chief of Police and Animal Control Officer
- B. The sponsoring organization shall have insurance to cover injuries of volunteers or persons bitten or injured by cats or other causes of injury at the documented feral cat colony or in conjunction with activities involved in the management of documented feral cat colonies.
- C. The sponsoring organization shall work with volunteers to provide for timely and regular capture of cats, spay/neutering of cats and vaccination and veterinary care as needed of feral cats in colonies.
- D. The sponsoring organization shall provide or coordinate mandatory educational classes to educate persons who are documented to be feral cat colony caretakers and volunteers in best practice and standard operating procedure methods to operate a feral cat colony and in reducing nuisance to neighbors.
- E. The sponsoring organization shall provide or coordinate educational materials concerning feral cat colonies to the public and to neighbors within five houses in the front, sides and rear of the feral cat colony.
- F. The sponsoring organization shall at least monthly monitor feral cat colony caretakers for adherence to operating procedures and the health and number of feral cats in the colony. It shall maintain a record of these monitoring

observations and report to the Village Manager or his/her designee on a monthly basis.

Section 5. § 78-33 Violations and penalties.

Any person, firm, corporation or other entity violating this article shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to a fine of:

A. First offense: \$100.

B. Second offense committed within three months of the first offense: \$250.

C. Any subsequent offense: \$500.