

Indianapolis TNR Ordinance

Chapter 531 Animals

Article 1 General Provisions

Sec. 531-101 Definitions

Community cat means an unowned cat that has been captured, evaluated, eartipped, sterilized and vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian and released in accordance with section 531-209 of this code.

Community cat caretaker means a person that provides food, water or outdoor areas of shelter to a community cat and who is not otherwise prohibited from owning or keeping animals.

Free-roaming cat means any homeless, stray, wild or untamed cat that is at large that does not possess an identification tag or microchip as required by section 501-202 of this Code or has been ear tipped to indicate it is a community cat.

Own means to keep, harbor or have custody, charge or control of an animal, and owner means and includes any person who owns an animal; however:

(2) a community cat caretaker shall not be deemed to own or keep a community cat but rather to provide limited oversight of such animals.

Article II Dogs and Cats

Sec. 531-205. - Unlawful care for a free-roaming cat

It shall be unlawful for a person to provide food, water or shelter to a free-roaming cat for a period of more than sixty (60) days unless in compliance with sections 531-209 and 531-210 of this Code. Animal care services division may impound community cats in violation of this chapter and dispose of the cats in accordance with section 531-731.

Sec. 531-209. - Community cat program

(a) A community cat program is established in order to encourage the stabilization of the free-roaming cat population in the city by utilizing a trap, neuter, and return methodology.

(b) A person may trap any free-roaming cat in a humane manner, utilizing a live release trap that does not injure the animal, and in accordance with the requirements of section 531-407 in order to have the free-roaming cat evaluated, surgically sterilized, ear-tipped, and vaccinated

against rabies by a licensed veterinarian and released to the vicinity from where it was trapped or released to a community cat caretaker.

- (c) A community cat, impounded by the animal care services division, shall be returned to the vicinity from where it was trapped unless the circumstances present a detriment to the cat or to the public health or welfare.

Sec. 531-210. - Community cat caretaker responsibilities.

- (a) A community cat caretaker shall abide by standard guidelines devised by the animal care services division regarding the provision of food, water, shelter and veterinary care for a community cat as well as comply with section 531-209 of this Code.
- (b) Community cat caretakers shall take a seriously ill or injured community cat to the animal care services shelter or seek licensed veterinarian care for the community cat.
- (c) A person who violates any provision of this section shall be punishable as provided in section 103-3 of this Code; provided, however, a fine imposed for the first such violation shall not be less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

Article III Rabies Control

Sec. 531-301. Antirabies Rabies vaccinations required for dogs and cats' certain animals.

- (a) It shall be unlawful to keep a dog, or cat, or ferret or to provide food, water or shelter to cats over the age of three (3) months in the city unless each cat dog, cat, or ferret is immunized against rabies by a vaccination performed by a veterinarian in accordance with 345 IAC 1-5-2. Community Cat Caretakers are not required to renew the immunization of Community Cats.

- (c) A veterinarian who administers rabies vaccination in the city to a free-roaming cat shall provide to the community cat caretaker written documentation of the administration of the vaccine, which shall include the name of the veterinarian's facility, telephone number and the year and serial unique identification number of the vaccination.

Article IV Care and Treatment

Sec. 531-407. Animal traps; requirements and prohibitions.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for a person to use, place, set or cause to be used, placed, or set any leg-hold trap or similar device upon any land or waters in the city.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for a person to use, place, set or cause to be used, placed or set any snare, net or other device which causes the trapping or capturing of any animal in any manner by which the animal is not either captured painlessly or killed instantly upon any land or waters in the city.

- (c) It shall be unlawful for a person, having placed a lawful trap, snare or similar device in the city, to fail to inspect and empty it at least once during every twenty-four-hour period.
- (d) It shall be unlawful for a person to remove an animal in the city from any trap not on the person's property, unless such person has the express permission of the property's owner to do so.
- (e) It shall be unlawful for a person, to use, place, set or caused to be used any animal traps during inclement weather. Weather temperatures below 20° Fahrenheit and above 90° Fahrenheit shall be deemed inclement weather for purposes of this chapter.
- (f) Traps set for the purpose of capturing cats or dogs must be covered to protect trapped animals from the elements.
- (g) Trapped cats or dogs must be transported in a temperature-controlled environment.

Article VII Enforcement

Division 2 Impoundment and Disposition of Animals

Sec. 531-721. Grounds for impoundment.

- (d) **Section 531-731** notwithstanding, any free roaming cat is eligible to be processed through the community cat program immediately without hold.

Sec. 531-724. Return of captured animal without impoundment.

When the owner of a captured animal is known, such animal need not be impounded but may be returned to its owner if, in the opinion of the animal care and control officer, the return would not present a danger detriment to the public health or welfare or otherwise result in a violation of this chapter. A community cat shall be released where captured, unless reasonable options of return have been exhausted.

Division 3 Other Disposition of Animals

Sec. 531-731. Disposition of owner-surrendered animals and impounded animals not claimed by owner; adoption.

- (c) A free-roaming cat that is not spayed or neutered and is eligible for the community cat program is exempt from the mandatory thirty-two (32) business hour impoundment period and may be immediately processed through the community cat program.