



CAT COLONIES, RESCUES FOSTERS & VOLUNTEERS

DS-21-056

April 20, 2021

Chapter 6 Ordinance Revisions

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- Ch. 6 ordinance revision was discussed at 12 meetings from July 19, 2018 – September 3, 2020
- Animal Advisory Board approved Ch. 6 revisions on September 17, 2020
 - ▣ During these (12) meetings staff/board discussed in detail various changes to the Ordinance to include sending the entire Ordinance with track changes to the entire body several times. No feedback received.
- Revisions were adopted by City Council on October 27, 2020

Cat Colony Revisions

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- ❑ Ch. 6 Article V – Feral and Free-Roaming Cats
 - ▣ Cat Colony permit requirements were consolidated from several sections/divisions in the previous ordinance into one.
 - No new requirements were added.
- ❑ Killeen Animal Services (KAS) developed an internal policy and created a permit in November 2020 on how to manage Cat Colony Permits.

Cat Colony Managers

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- ❑ KAS identified 12 known cat colonies in the city and mailed certified notice letters to colony managers on December 11, 2020
- ❑ January 22, 2021 mailed certified reminder letter
- ❑ March 23, 2021 mailed certified final notice letter
 - ▣ These letters outlined the requirements and due dates to become compliant
- ❑ Enforcement began March 2021

Cat Colony Permit

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- Cat Colony Permit Requirements Per the Ordinance:
 - ▣ Complete application
 - ▣ Provide reasonable estimation of the number of cats in each colony
 - ▣ Provide medical records for each animal that has been sterilized and vaccinated against the rabies virus.

Cat Colony Permit (Continued)

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- Provide the location by address and closest cross streets of each colony
- Provide written permission of all landowners within one block of the location where the cat colony is fed
- Participate in Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, and Return program (TNVR)
- No site will be authorized for use in the TNVR program if the site is located within one half mile of a school, church, or public playground

Approved Cat Colony Permit Holders

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- ❑ Must submit annual report to KAS
 - ▣ Estimated number of cats per colony that the cat colony caretaker has obtained a permit for
 - ▣ Number of cats vaccinated for rabies
 - ▣ Number of cats sterilized,
 - ▣ The name and location of the veterinary clinic used by the caretaker

Denied Cat Colony Permits

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- ❑ KAS received two separate applications from managers that managed one cat colony:
- ❑ Permit was denied
 - ❑ Outdated/Missing medical records for each animal that has been sterilized and vaccinated against the rabies virus
 - ❑ Unable to verify all submitted written permission of landowners within one block of the location where the cat colony is fed
- ❑ KAS staff met with denied permit managers on April 6, 2021 and communicated missing items to managers.
- ❑ KAS staff mailed a 30-day extension letter on April 14, 2021 and followed up via phone.

Cat Colony Best Practices

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- Round Rock, TX – Annual permit, landowner written permission, vaccination to include rabies, ear-tipped
- Marble Falls, TX – TNVR educational course, sterilization
- *People should follow State laws and local ordinances to ensure animals in their custody receive adequate care and are vaccinated against rabies. - David W. Smonko, DVM, Department of State Health Services*
- *Rabies laws: Texas Health and Safety Code 826.021-826.024 and Texas Administrative Code 169.29*

Feral Cats & Wildlife Connection Resources

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- ▣ Kelly Simon, Wildlife Biologist Urban Wildlife Technical Guidance Program, Wildlife Division, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept

- ▣ American Bird Conservancy's "Cats Indoors" program
<https://abcbirds.org/program/cats-indoors/>

- Cat Wars: The Devastating Consequences of a Cuddly Killer
[Cat Wars | Princeton University Press](#)

Rescue Standards

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- ❑ Comply with Chapter 6, Article VII, Division 6 – Animal Rescues
 - ▣ Apply
 - ▣ Pass facility inspection for rescues located in city limits
 - KAS will work with rescues outside of city limits, local Animal Services Department to perform facility inspection
- ❑ KAS began steps to better manage rescues through the creation of a policy, application and inspection checklist November 2020

Rescues

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- KAS leverages rescues for the following reasons:

- ▣ High-cost injury
- ▣ Sick
- ▣ Aggressive
- ▣ Pregnant
- ▣ Space/Length of stay
- ▣ Case animal (cruelty)



- From October 1, 2020 – April 13, 2021 KAS has transferred 264 dogs and 151 cats to non-profit rescue partners
- If a rescue requests to pull a vetted animal, they will be charged adoption rate \$62.50
 - ▣ In many cases KAS waives fees for rescues

Rescues currently being used

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QUANTITY	LOCATION
2	KILLEEN, TX
4	AUSTIN, TX
1	AUSTIN/SAN ANTONIO, TX
1	CONROE, TX
1	HOUSTON, TX
1	GRAND PRARIE, TX
1	CINCINNATI, OH

QUANTITY	LOCATION
1	DALLAS/FORT WORTH, TX
1	GARLAND, TX
1	AMHERST, OH
1	PFLUGERVILLE, TX
1	FREEPORT, NY
1	RHODE ISLAND
17	TOTAL

Rescues Not Considered

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- ❑ Rescues within Killeen with:
 - ▣ Pending cruelty charges
 - ▣ Cruelty convictions
 - ▣ No application on file
 - ▣ Failed inspection



Fosters

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- ❑ All fosters must:
 - ▣ Fill out a Team Member Packet and become a vetted volunteer
 - ▣ Fill out a KAS Foster Care Agreement
 - ▣ Pass home visit inspection
- ❑ No data as this process is new and now linked to the rescue application/process

Volunteer Process

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- ❑ Recreation Services identified a need for a volunteer process and developed an application
- ❑ Ages 18 and up
- ❑ Human Resources conducts a background check at no cost to the citizen and has a 2–7-day turnaround
 - ▣ This process does NOT require fingerprinting
- ❑ Complete volunteer orientation and tour the facility
- ❑ Volunteer activities: laundry, dishes, walking dogs, socializing cats and assisting at adoption events

KAS Policy Improvement

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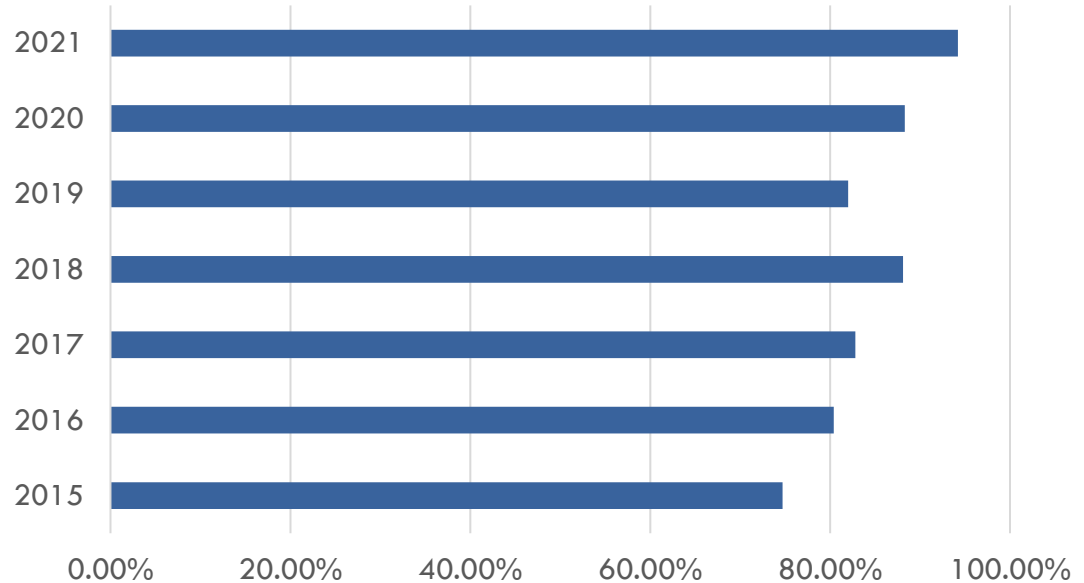
- Since 2019, KAS has created 35 policies
 - ▣ Cat Colony Permit Process
 - ▣ Rescue Vetting Process
 - ▣ Standard Operating Procedures: Volunteers, Fees, Cash Handling, Vaccination Protocols, Animal Seizures

Live Release Rate

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YEAR	RATE
2015	74.7%
2016	80.4%
2017	82.8%
2018	88.10%
2019*	82%
2020	88.3%
2021	94.20%

LIVE RELEASE RATE BY YEAR



* Recreation Services assumed responsibility June 2019
No Kill Shelter designation 90% and above