

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 2, ANIMAL CONTROL; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, with the adoption of Ordinance No. 8180 on June 6, 2009, the North Little Rock City Council adopted North Little Rock Municipal Code (NLRMC) Chapter 2, Animal Control, as has amended the same from time to time; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to adopt a community cat program to trap, sterilize, vaccinate and release feral and stray cats considered unsuitable for adoption; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to allow microchips as an alternative to tattoos for identification purposes under Section 5.3.1; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the City and its citizens to amend NLRMC Chapter 2 to adopt the community cat program and allow the microchipping alternative.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1: That Section 2.1 of the North Little Rock Municipal Code Chapter 2, Animal Control, is hereby amended to include the following definitions:

**Editor’s note:** Deletions are denoted in “red” by strikethrough and additions in “blue” by underline.

**2.1.2 Definitions.**

*Community cat.* A free-roaming cat that is without visibly discernable or microchip owner identification of any kind.

*Community cat caretaker.* Any person who provides food, water, or shelter to community cat(s). A community cat caretaker is not considered the owner, keeper, or harbinger of the community cats for the purposes of animal limits, criminal or civil liability.

*Community cat program.* A program pursuant to which community cats are trapped, sterilized, vaccinated against rabies, ear-tipped, and returned to the location where they are trapped. A cat may receive a microchip as part of a trap-neuter-vaccinate-return program.

SECTION 2: That Section 5.1 of the North Little Rock Municipal Code Chapter 2 is hereby amended to include the following section:

**Editor’s note:** Deletions are denoted in “red” by strikethrough and additions in “blue” by underline.

### 5.1.6 Community Cat Programs

- (A) Community cats are exempt from licensing, tag, stray and at-large provisions of this article.
- (B) A person returning a cat pursuant to a community cat program does not abandon that cat under this Chapter.
- (C) Nothing in this section shall prohibit or limit the authority of Animal Control and/or other authorized officials to impound a sick or injured cat for the purpose of veterinary treatment or humane euthanasia
- (D) A community cat received by the shelter may be released prior to the expiration of any holding period to an organization that operates a community cat program or be returned to the location where it was trapped if the shelter operates the community cat program.

SECTION 3: That Section 5.3.1 of the North Little Rock Chapter 2 is hereby amended as follows:

**Editor's note:** Changes are in **bold**. Deletions are denoted in “~~red~~” by strikethrough and additions in “blue” by underline.

### 5.3.1 Banning of pit bull breeds of dogs

(B) *Exemption of registered AKC show dogs . . . .*

- (4) The first five numbers of AKC registration tattooed on the abdomen on the upper side of the left rear leg and/or microchipped. The exemption provided for in the subsection will not apply to any AKC registered dog discussed above that is found to be vicious pursuant to Section 5.2.1.

. . .

(G) *Procedure for dealing with violators . . .*

- (1) The animal will be seized by NLRAC and held for three business days for the owner to reclaim the dog with a reclaim fee of \$100.00. The owner must sign an affidavit agreeing to immediately move the animal out of North Little Rock city limits. The animal must be marked with a NLRAC number or microchipped, and spayed or neutered prior to its release to the owner.

SECTION 4: That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 5: That the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable, and if any section, phrase or provision shall be declared or held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remainder of the sections, phrases or provisions.

SECTION 6: It is hereby found and determined that there is an immediate need to amend the North Little Rock Municipal Code Chapter 2, Animal Control to establish guidelines for the community cat program and allow for the microchipping of banned breeds; THEREFORE, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

PASSED:

APPROVED:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Terry C. Hartwick

SPONSORS:

ATTEST:

TERRY C. Hartwick  
Mayor Terry C. Hartwick *by AT*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Whitbey, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Amy Beckman Fields  
Amy Beckman Fields, City Attorney

PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY/kt

FILED <u>10:45</u> A.M. _____ P.M.
By <u>A. Fields</u>
DATE <u>4.7.24</u>
<b>Diane Whitbey, City Clerk and Collector</b> <b>North Little Rock, Arkansas</b>
RECEIVED BY <u>S. Usery</u>