

## **COMPANION ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLEDGE – UPLOAD 1**

- 1) Officially Adopted Pledge
- 2) Memo to Staff, etc. with Affiliations

### **BACKGROUND – WHAT TO DO/WHAT WE DID:**

We solicited stakeholders from several areas and their contributions are:

1. The Animal Control enforcement area. These professionals deal directly with the issues related to outside cats so have direct knowledge of the problems and possible solutions. They know where the specific problems exist and can direct the 501 (c) (3) team to that area in an effort to address and resolve the issues.
2. Nonprofit organizations(s), 501 (c) (3) that are centered on helping outside cats. This group provides valuable insight for plan development and directly assists the residents with the outside cat issues by assessing the area, trapping the cats, providing neutering and returning the cats to the area as appropriate.
3. Shelter volunteers. These volunteers/people have a strong interest in finding efficient methods of addressing outside cat issues. They provide valuable insight for plan development and manpower to assist Animal Control and the 501 (c) (3)
4. The general public/residents of Woodbridge Township – many of the residents have issues and concerns about outside cats and so have a keen interest in resolving these issues. They provide valuable insight for plan development and about what whether our current actions are effective.
5. Health Department/Inspectors – They represent the public health side of animal control issues/concerns. They insure that the plan of action does not result in a public health issue or concern.

The stakeholders were solicited in several ways. The public health professionals were solicited directly by the Director of Health or his representative due to their knowledge and background in dealing with animals and their issues in the community. All other stakeholders were solicited through either word of mouth in the community or through the general posting of a stakeholders meeting in public Township buildings such as the Woodbridge Animal Shelter, Woodbridge Public Health center and the Township web page soliciting input on the current status and issues related the outside cats. The last annual meeting was held on June 26, 2012.

### Measures of Success

It is difficult to measure success for a program such as this in the short term. However, over the long term we expect to see several areas of improvement specifically at the Shelter intake numbers. When we began we expected to see a reduction in the number of trapped/stray cats brought to the Shelter YOY. We also expected to see a subsequent reduction in the number of euthanized cats at the Shelter as a result.

The Shelter records show in the most recent calendar year period there is a reduction of cat surrenders of 50%, a reduction of stray cats of almost 15% and a reduction in cat euthanasia of more than 30%, year over year. As a contrast and a control, the number of dogs entering the shelter increased by 1% over the same period.

Another measure of success is the number of cats neutered through the program during the year. Whiskers rescue has reported that over 300 outside cats have been neutered since the beginning of the program 1 ½ years ago.

## SUSTAINABLE NJ COUNCIL RESOLUTION

### Municipal Support for Responsible Pet Ownership Programs in the Community

**RECOGNIZING** that cats and dogs are an integral and valuable part of all communities, and contribute to the well-being of humans, whether as companions, services animals or therapy pets; and

**UNDERSTANDING** that municipalities have an important role in ensuring the well-being of the animals while balancing the needs of pet owners and non-pet owners; and

**WHEREAS**, legislators and municipal officials report that the number of calls from citizens about animals related issues rival any other issue(s); and

**WHEREAS**, there are approximately 2.2 million owners dogs and 2.5 million owned cats in New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey was the first state in the nation to develop an innovative state-wide spay/neuter program and all the proceeds from the sale of animal friendly License Plates are used to reimburse participating veterinarians for spaying and neutering surgeries; and

**WHEREAS**, state responsibility for promoting responsible pet care and ensuring that pets do not suffer due to abuse, neglect or lack of proper care in kennels, pet shops, shelters, and pounds is vested in the Office of Animal Welfare, within the New Jersey Department of Health and Human Services and Local Health Departments, such as Woodbridge Department of Health and Human Services; and

**WHEREAS** New Jersey Society to Prevent Cruelty to Animals (NJSPCA) and Municipal Animal Cruelty Investigators (ACIs) are responsible for investigating and acting as an officer for the detection, apprehension, and arrest of offenders against the animal cruelty laws;

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey mandates training requirements for Animal Control Officers and Animal Cruelty Investigators;

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey impounds over 100,000 animals per year in animal shelters and impoundment facilities;

**WHEREAS** approximately 37% of the animals that enter New Jersey's facilities are euthanized, at a rate of about 3,000 every month; and

**WHEREAS**, free-roaming unvaccinated cats and dogs present a potential public health threat to humans through the spread of such zoonotic diseases as rabies,

leptospirosis, toxoplasmosis, roundworms, animal bites, and environmental contamination from animal feces; and

**WHEREAS**, stray and unwanted pets place an enormous financial burden on municipalities and non-profit humane agencies organized to care for these animals; and

**WHEREAS**, it is more humane and cost effective to reduce the number of unwanted animals than it is to impound and euthanize unwanted or unclaimed dogs and cats; and

**WHEREAS**, all dogs are required to be licensed in the municipality where they are housed and the majority of municipalities, such as Woodbridge Township, also require the licensure of cats; and

**WHEREAS**, all municipalities are required to canvas their residents to locate unlicensed dogs;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE**, that the Township of Woodbridge, resolves to take the following steps with regard to our municipal responsibilities with the intent of making Woodbridge a truly sustainable community.

It is our intent to do our utmost, within the bounds of our jurisdiction, to ensure that companion animals are treated humanely, respectfully, and responsibly through public education and through exercise of powers vested within New Jersey municipalities as follows:

**Authority of Municipalities:**

Pursuant to New Jersey Statutes, all municipalities must appoint a certified animal control officer who shall be responsible for animal control with the jurisdiction of the municipality, including providing emergency veterinary care for injured stray animals and coverage outside normal working hours;

The municipality in which the animal facility is located is responsible for issuing the license for that facility to operate;

The NJ vicious dog law establishes a statewide standard for municipalities to effectively address situations of vicious or potentially dangerous dogs, regardless of the breed;

The animal population control program provides for low cost spaying and neutering for pet owners adopting dogs and cats from New Jersey shelters, pounds, and animal adoption referral agencies and pet owners participating in one of several public assistance programs.

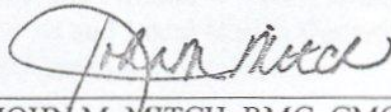


The Municipality pledges to:

- Enforce all animal and rabies control statutes and regulations, including the requirement to pick up and impound all stray dogs and cats, excepting stray and feral cats associated with a recognized management program.
- Work to improve the enforcement of animal cruelty statutes.
- Educate the community, including school children, about their responsibilities towards the pet animals they choose to keep.
- Institute, as appropriate cat licensing ordinances and increase the percentage of licensed cats and dogs through ease of licensing and licensing enforcement measures.
- Identify and work to implement best practices to prevent unwanted breeding through effective animal control, availability of low-cost pet spaying and neutering services, public education, and pet friendly rental and senior housing.
- Identify alternatives to euthanasia of adoptable companion animals, including utilizing foster homes, adoption networks, and providing remedial behavioral training services to existing and future owners.
- Assist in identifying resources to improve the condition and increase capacity of animal shelters and impoundment facilities and animal control services.

ADOPTED: JUL 12 2011

I hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of the Resolution adopted by the Municipal Council of the Township of Woodbridge at their Regular Meeting held on JUL 12 2011.



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JOHN M. MITCH, RMC, CMC, CMR  
MUNICIPAL CLERK



## Township of Woodbridge

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John E. McCormac, CPA, Mayor



*Woodbridge - Ten Towns, One Community*

### MEMORANDUM

To: Health Department Staff  
Animal Control Officers  
Planning Board  
Zoning Board  
Public Works Director  
Park Division Superintendent  
Environmental Commission

From: Dennis M. Green, Director of Health

Date: August 1, 2011

Re: Resolution for Companion Animal Plan for Sustainable Jersey

We are pleased to inform you that the Town Council has approved a resolution approving the Animal Companion Plan. This program provides for a plan of action for the control and care of outside cats.

The goal of the plan is to increase responsible cat ownership and prevent unwanted cat breeding. To accomplish this goal the plan provides for the education of the public through flyers and other means as well as assistance for residents with outside cats. We are partnering with Whiskers Rescue, a Non-profit 501 C 3 organization whose goal is to spay and neuter outside cats to prevent them from over breeding. Whiskers will directly assist residents who want to properly care for outside cats.

If should have any questions you may contact the Animal Control Division at 732-855-0600 ext 5007 or Whiskers Rescue at 732-921-0616.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this program.