

**ORDINANCE #1402**  
**OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HADDON, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, AND STATE OF NEW**  
**JERSEY, AMENDING, REVISING AND/OR SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 91 OF**  
**THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HADDON ENTITLED "CATS"**

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**WHEREAS**, Chapter 91 of the Code of the Township of Haddon ("Township") governs the keeping of cats in the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 91-8, the feeding and harboring of stray cats is prohibited; and

**WHEREAS**, while the Township believes that the safest place for pet domesticated cats is indoor, it also recognizes that feral and community cats are not, in the majority of cases, suitable to be taken indoors and kept as pets because their home is outdoors. The Township further recognizes the need for innovation in addressing the issues presented by feral or community cats and, to that end, finds that properly managed community cat colonies are part of the solution to reducing the numbers of feral cats in the Township and the rate of cats euthanized in area shelters; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:48-2, the Governing Body is authorized to enact and amend ordinances as deemed necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety and welfare and as may be necessary to carry into effect the powers and duties conferred and imposed upon the Township by law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the Township of Haddon, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, as follows:

**SECTION 1:** Chapter 91 of the Code of the Township of Haddon, entitled "Cats" is hereby amended, revised and/or supplemented as follows:

**§91-8. Harboring Stray Cats.**

Except as provided for in Section 91-8.1, no person shall harbor any non-owned, unlicensed or stray cat or make food or shelter available to the same following receipt of a notice from the Secretary of the Township Board of Health advising said person that a harboring in violation of this chapter is occurring and giving said person seven days within which to cease and desist such harboring.

**§91-8.1. Feral Cats.**

**A. Purpose.**

The goal of this section is to provide for the care and control of stray and feral cat populations within the Township to the extent possible and discourage the unlawful feeding thereof.

**B. Definitions.** For purposes of this section, the following terms, phrases, words and their derivations shall have the meanings stated herein. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words used in the plural number include the singular number, and words used in the singular number include the plural number. The word "shall" is always mandatory and not merely directory.

**ABANDON** – the forsaking entirely of, or the refusal, neglectful or otherwise, to provide care and support for a domesticated cat.

**CAREGIVER** - any person who provides food, water or shelter to or otherwise cares for a cat and who agrees to facilitate the TNR program within the Township.

**DOMESTICATED CAT** – a cat that is socialized to humans and is appropriate as a companion for humans.

**EARTIPPING** – the straight-line cutting of the tip of the left ear of a cat while the cat is anesthetized.

**FEED** – to give, place, expose, deposit, distribute, or scatter any edible material with the intention of feeding, attracting, or enticing.

**FERAL CAT** – a cat that exists in a wild or untamed state, either due to birth or reversion to a wild state from domestication. The usual and consistent temperament of a feral cat is extreme fear and resistance to contact with humans. Feral cats are completely or substantially unsocialized to humans.

**FERAL CAT COLONY** - a group of cats that congregates, more or less, together as a unit. Although not every cat in a colony may be feral, any nonferal cats that congregate with a colony shall be deemed to be a part of it.

**OWNER** – any person, firm, corporation, company, partnership, association, trust, estate, or any other legal entity.

**PERSON** – an individual, corporation, company, partnership, firm, or association.

**STRAY CAT** – a cat that is regularly off the property of the owner, is not under the physical control and restraint of the owner, and is not regularly provided with food by its owner.

**TNR** - trap, neuter and return.

**TNR PROGRAM** - a program pursuant to which feral and stray cats are trapped, neutered or spayed, vaccinated against rabies and returned to the location where they congregate.

**C. Responsibilities of Owners of Domesticated Cats.**

1. The owner of a domesticated cat shall provide appropriate and adequate food, water and shelter for said cat.
2. The owner of a domesticated cat shall exercise reasonable care to guard against the cat creating a nuisance.
3. The owner of a sexually intact (not spayed or neutered) domesticated cat shall not permit his/her cat to roam unsupervised.
4. An owner shall not abandon a domesticated cat.

**D. Prohibitions.** Except as provided for in Section 91-8.1(E), it shall be unlawful for any person to:

1. Keep, maintain, care for, feed, or in any way attract or harbor any feral or stray cat within the Township of Haddon.
2. Place food outside a residence or commercial establishment where stray or feral cats have access to the food.

**E. Feral Cat Colonies.**

1. Feral cat colonies shall be permitted and caregivers shall be entitled to maintain them in accordance with the terms and conditions of this section.

2. Feral Cat Caregiver Requirements. Caregivers shall be responsible for the following:

- a. Registering the feral cat colony with the Township;
- b. Taking steps that are reasonably likely to result in the vaccination of the colony population for rabies and making reasonable efforts to update the vaccinations on cats that can be recaptured;
- c. Taking steps that are reasonably likely to result in the spay/neuter, by a licensed veterinarian, of at least ninety (90%) percent of the colony population;

- d. Providing the Township with descriptions of each cat in the colony and copies of documents evidencing that the cats have been vaccinated and spayed/neutered;
- e. Providing food, water and, if feasible, recovery shelter for colony cats provided, however, that no such shelter shall be on public property;
- f. Observing the colony cats at least twice per week and keeping a record of any illnesses or unusual behavior noticed in any colony cats;
- g. Obtaining the approval of the owner of any property, to which the caregiver requires access to provide colony care;
- h. In the event that kittens are born to a colony cat, taking reasonable steps likely to result in the removal of the kittens from the colony after they have been weaned, and the placement of the kittens in homes or foster homes for the purpose of subsequent permanent placement;
- i. Reporting annually in writing to the Borough on the status of the colony, including data on the number and gender of all cats in the colony, the number of cats that died or otherwise ceased being a part of the colony during the year; the number of kittens born to colony cats and their disposition and the number of cats and kittens placed in permanent homes as companion cats; and
- j. Obtaining proper medical attention to any colony cat that appears to require it.

3. Colony Cat Requirements.

- a. The left ear of a colony cat that has been spayed or neutered and vaccinated shall be eartipped.
- b. An electronic animal identification device (EAID) shall be inserted into the cat by a veterinarian in accordance with professional medical standards. The Owner or Caregiver shall be the named the contact person for purposes of the EAID.

4. Disposition of Colony Cats.

- a. A Township Official who has trapped a cat whose left ear has been tipped or which bears some other distinguishing mark indicating that it belongs to a feral cat colony shall scan the cat for an EAID. If an EAID is found, the Official shall be responsible for contacting the Caregiver or other person named as owner of the cat.



b. If the Owner or Caregiver is not able to immediately take custody of the cat, the cat shall be transported to the Camden County Animal Shelter. The Owner or Caregiver shall be responsible for retrieving the cat from the shelter within three (3) business days or advising the shelter if the Owner or Caregiver does not intend to retrieve the cat.

5. **Liability for Costs.** In addition to any fines provided pursuant to Section 91-10 of this Chapter, any person found keeping, maintaining, caring for, feeding, or in any way attracting or harboring any stray or feral cat in violation of any of the provisions of this Chapter shall, upon conviction, be responsible for any costs incurred by the Township of Haddon to capture, collect, or otherwise impound such cat.

**SECTION 2:** Except as set forth in Section 1 above, the balance of Chapter 91 shall not be affected by this Ordinance.

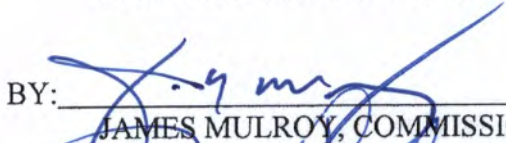
**SECTION 3:** All Ordinances contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent that they are inconsistent herewith.

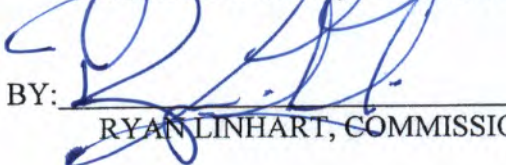
**SECTION 4:** If the provisions of any section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision, or clause of this Ordinance shall be judged invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such order of judgment shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of any section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision, or clause of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 5.** This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication according to law.

THE TOWNSHIP OF HADDON

BY:   
RANDALL W. TEAGUE, MAYOR

BY:   
JAMES MULROY, COMMISSIONER

BY:   
RYAN LINHART, COMMISSIONER

Adopted:  
ATTEST:

  
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JENAI JOHNSON, RMC - TOWNSHIP CLERK

**The foregoing Ordinance was introduced by the Mayor and Commissioners at the regular meeting held on November 26, 2019. This Ordinance will be considered for adoption on final reading and public hearing to be held on December 17, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Haddon Township Municipal Building, 135 Haddon Avenue, Westmont, New Jersey.**

**The purpose of this Ordinance is to provide for a trap, neuter and return program for feral cats. A copy of this Ordinance is available at no charge to the general public between the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday (Legal Holidays excluded), at the Office of the Township Clerk, Haddon Township Municipal Building, 135 Haddon Avenue, Westmont, New Jersey.**