BOROUGH OF OAKMONT
ORDINANCE NO. 11 of 2024

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF OAKMONT, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE BOROUGH CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 63, ANIMALS, BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE, ARTICLE II, CATS, TO REGULATE FERAL AND COMMUNITY CATS

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakmont finds and declares that the population of feral cats in the Borough poses a danger to the health, safety and welfare of the public; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakmont also finds that domestic cats permitted to run free outside pose a danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the public if they are unidentifiable, not spayed or neutered, and not immunized in accordance to Pennsylvania law;

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the public health and general welfare of its residents to adopt an ordinance regulating feral cats and outdoor domestic cats.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the Borough of Oakmont ordains that Chapter 63 of the Oakmont Borough Code of Ordinances be amended as follows:

I. Chapter 63, Animals, is amended to add a new Article II, Cats, to read as follows:

Article II. Cats

§ 67-10 Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms have the meanings indicated unless a different meaning clearly appears within the context:

COMMUNITY CAT
Any cat, feral or domestic, that is found outdoors

DOMESTIC CAT
Any cat typically kept as a pet or companion animal that is permitted indoor and/or outdoor

FERAL CAT
Any homeless, wild or untamed cat.

TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN PROGRAM
A program by which a feral cat is humanely trapped, sterilized, vaccinated, ear-tipped and then returned to the location in which the cat was originally trapped.

§ 67- 11 Responsibilities of Domestic Cat Owners.

A. It shall be unlawful for any owner or keeper of a domestic cat to permit their cat to run free outside unless said cat has been:

   1. Neutered or spayed to prevent procreation;
   2. Immunized against rabies in compliance with Pennsylvania law; and
   3. Appropriately microchipped and wearing a breakaway collar with tags.

B. If a cat is not microchipped or is not wearing a breakaway collar with tags, said cat shall be presumed to be a feral cat.

§ 67-12 Feeding of Community Cats.

It shall be unlawful for any person to feed a community cat, if such feeding causes a nuisance to neighbors or creates a condition contrary to the health, safety and welfare of the community.

§ 67-13 Trap-Neuter-Return Programs.

A. When no-kill animal shelter availability or foster homes are non-existent, Trap-Neuter-Release shall be the preferred disposition for impounded feral cats.

B. The following shall be permitted when performed as part of a Trap-Neuter-Return Program:

1. Trapping, for the sole purpose of sterilizing, vaccinating and ear-tipping a feral cat.

2. Providing food and water to a feral cat immediately before or while it is trapped.

C. The release of a feral cat to its original location upon the conclusion of the Trap-Neuter-Return Program shall not be considered abandonment.

§ 67-14 Violations and Penalties.

A person who violates any provision of this article shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined in an amount not to exceed $1,000. Each day of continuing violation shall constitute a separate offense.

II. Severability. It is intended that the provisions in this Ordinance are severable and if any provisions are held or declared illegal, invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the decision shall not affect or impair any of the remaining sections.

III. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED INTO LAW by the Oakmont Borough Council at a duly assembled public meeting this **16** day of **December** 2024.

THE BOROUGH OF OAKMONT ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNA.

ATTEST:

Scot E. Fedor, Borough Manager/Secretary

BOROUGH OF OAKMONT

By:

Nancy L. Ride, President of Council

APPROVED:

Sophia Facaros, Mayor,

12/16/2024

Date

This Ordinance recorded in the Borough Ordinance book at Volume/Page _____, on _____, 2024, by the undersigned.

Borough Secretary