

Cook County Feral Cat Colony Caretaker Application

This application is required for anyone interested in becoming a registered Feral Cat Colony Caretaker as provided for in Cook County ordinance 07-O-72 "Managed Care of Feral Cats," passed by the Cook County Board of Commissioners on October 16, 2007. *Chapter 10 Animals, Article IV, Section 10-95-99.*

The applicant has read the ordinance and agrees to comply with its terms. Applicant understands that the sponsoring humane organization ("Sponsor") with which applicant is applying, may, in its discretion, review and approve applicant as a Feral Cat Colony Caretaker. Likewise, the sponsor may decline further approval if the applicant fails to abide by provisions contained within the ordinance. Below is a list of sponsoring organizations. Please fill out the application and send it to the agency of your choice.

Chicago North Side
Tree House Humane Society
7225 N. Western Ave.
Chicago, IL 60645
Phone 773-262-4000
tnr@treehouseanimals.org
www.treehouseanimals.org/tnr

North & NW Suburbs
Feral Feline Project
P.O. Box 1
Wheeling, IL 60090
Phone 847-800-0095
Fax 847-546-1477
feralfelineproject@gmail.com
www.feralfelineproject.org

Chicago South Side
PAWS Chicago
Lurie Spay/Neuter Clinic
3516 W. 26th St.
Chicago, IL 60623
Phone 773-521-7729
Fax 773-521-1082
FeralNeighborhoodCats@pawschicago.org
www.pawschicago.org

Near West Suburbs
CatVando
Phone 708-829-6013
www.catvando.org
catvando@trn@yahoo.com

Chicago Far South,
Dolton & Riverdale
Cats in Action
Phone 773-898-9899
Phone 773-517-2578
liz@catsinaction.org
erica@catsinaction.org

South & SW Suburbs
Triple R Pets
P.O. Box 86
Western Springs, IL
60558
Phone 708-738-1438
Fax 630-214-3603
info@triplerpets.org
www.triplerpets.org

Applicant Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & County Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Colony Address and / or street coordinates (if different from home address):

City & County Zip: _____

Background Information

Do you have an ongoing relationship with a veterinarian? _____

Why are you applying to be a registered Colony Caretaker? _____

Compliance with Ordinance (Please circle your responses below)

1. Are you willing to register the colony with the Sponsor? Y / N
2. Are you willing to take all appropriate and available steps to vaccinate the colony population for rabies, preferably with a three-year vaccine and to update the vaccines as mandated by law? Y / N
3. Are you willing to take all appropriate and available steps to have the population spayed or neutered by a licensed veterinarian? Y / N
4. Are you willing to insure that the cats have been ear-tipped while the cat is under anesthesia? Y / N
5. Are you willing to insure that each cat has an EAID (microchip)? Y / N
6. Are you willing to provide the Sponsor with a description of each cat in the colony and copies of documents demonstrating cats have been vaccinated, micro-chipped and spayed or neutered? Y / N
7. Are you willing to provide food, water and, if feasible, shelter for colony cats? Y / N
8. Are you willing to obtain medical attention for any colony cat that appears to require it? Y / N
9. Are you willing to observe the colony cats at least twice per week and keep a record of illness or unusual behavior noticed in any colony cat? Y / N
10. Are you willing to obtain written approval of the owner or authorized representative of any property to which you require access to provide colony care? Y / N
11. Are you willing to take all reasonable steps to remove kittens from the colony after they have been weaned, place the kittens in homes or foster homes for the purpose of subsequent permanent adoption and TNR the mother cat? Y / N
12. Are you willing to report semi-annually in writing to the Sponsor on the location of the colony, the number and gender of the cats in the colony, the number that died or otherwise ceased to be part of the colony, the number of kittens born to colony cats and their disposition, the number of cats placed in animal shelters or in permanent homes as companion cats, the number of cats vaccinated, the number of cats microchipped, and the number of cats spayed or neutered? Y / N
13. In the event that a cat from your managed colony is picked up by Animal Control, do you agree to promptly arrange transportation back to the colony? Y / N
14. In the event of a neighbor dispute, do you agree to make a good-faith effort to resolve the dispute in cooperation with the Sponsor? Y / N
15. In the event that you are unable or unwilling to continue as a Feral Cat Colony Caretaker, are you willing to give the Sponsor at least 60 days notice? Y / N

Please remember that you have committed to providing these cats with the best life possible. You have made the first steps by applying for sponsorship. The cats will surely have a better quality of life because of it. However, we want to emphasize that *ALL colony members and any other neighborhood cats must be spayed/neutered in reasonable time and the environment needs be clean and tidy in order for you to remain a sponsored caretaker in good standing.* Please note that Cats in Action's guidelines for becoming and remaining a colony caretaker in good standing may be more stringent than as required under applicable law.

I, the undersigned, certify that the information provided in this application on (Date) _____ is complete and truthful to the best of my knowledge.

Signature



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Once your application is approved, Cats in Action will send you a confirmation letter, either via email or regular post. If you every encounter problems/questions about the cats, you can show this letter as evidence that you are in compliance with the law (Cook County *Managed Care of Feral Cats* ordinance).

- **IMPORTANT:** If you ever receive a **CITATION** from Chicago Animal Care & Control, the Department of Streets & Sanitation, the Chicago police or any other City office, call Cats in Action immediately! We are here to back you up.
- Refrain from “**free-feeding**,” or leaving food out all the time. DO NOT leave food out **overnight**, as this attracts wildlife and upsets neighbors. Feed at the same time every day and pick up any leftover food after cats eat.
- Do not use paper or Styrofoam plates that can blow away and create litter in the neighborhood. Pick up food dishes within an hour after the cats eat, and maintain a clean and clear feeding area at all times.
- Provide fresh, clean **water** throughout the year. Hydration is especially important in winter when outside water freezes. Dehydration can lead to death.
- Do not feed **milk**, cream or any other dairy products. Cats are lactose intolerant to cows milk. It makes them sick!
- Do not feed human food, with the exception of meat. Onions, green onions, grapes and garlic are **poisonous** to cats.
- Clean up all **feces**, hairballs and any other cat-related debris in a timely manner. Use a covered litter box or make a sand box if cat poop becomes a problem.
- Provide **winter shelter**: Cats in Action makes and sells shelters throughout the year. Call us for details or make your own shelters. Use straw for insulation instead of blankets or towels. Any cloth will retain moisture from the air and freeze in winter.
- Observe cats for **illness** and **injury**. If a feral cat is injured or ill, you need to trap the cat using a humane trap and get the cat to a clinic. Call Cats in Action if you need help.
- ALL cats that come to eat are your responsibility, including any newcomers. When new cats come by, it is your responsibility to trap them or call Cats in Action if you are unable to trap. All newcomers must be sterilized within 30 days of showing up.
- **IF YOU ARE MOVING**, please call Cats in Action immediately to let us know.
- If anyone **THREATENS** or **HARMS** the cats, call Cats in Action immediately to let us know.

Please sign below to indicate that you are in agreement with the above and will make a good-faith effort to comply.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address of Colony: _____