

1 Introduced February 14, 2023, by Councilman  
2 Borchert, seconded by Councilman Tamborella,  
3 (by request of Administration)

4 **Item No. 23-02-3464**

5  
6 **ORDINANCE NO. 4116**

7 An ordinance to amend certain provisions of Chapter 6 (Animals), Article II  
8 (Dogs and Cats), of the City's Code of Ordinances to provide for a Community Cat  
9 Program.

10 WHEREAS, communities across the country have recognized the challenges  
11 presented by feral and stray cat populations that are not spayed or neutered; and  
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14 WHEREAS, these same communities also have recognized that a responsible  
15 "Community Cat Program," in which healthy feral cats and stray cats are captured,  
16 sterilized, ear-tipped, and vaccinated for rabies, before being returned to the location at  
17 which they were found (also known as a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program), can assist  
18 significantly with cat population control and also aid in rodent control; and  
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23 WHEREAS, the City of Slidell wishes to formally adopt such a program.  
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26 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Slidell City Council, in legal  
27 session convened, that it hereby adopts a Community Cat Program by amending Chapter  
28 6 (Animals), Article II (Dogs and Cats), of the City's Code of Ordinances as follows:  
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31 1. Section 6-37 of Article II of Chapter 6 of the Code, previously reserved, is added to  
32 read:

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34 **Section 6-37. – Community Cat Program.**

- 35 a) Definitions.

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37 *Community cat* means any altered or unaltered cat, having been found to be at  
38 large and lacking identifying information for an owner/keeper and that may or may  
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4 not be feral, that is trapped, assessed, sterilized, marked, and returned, by the city  
5 or its designee, per the provisions below.

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7 *Community cat caretaker* means any person who provides food and/or water to  
8 a community cat or cats, and who is not an owner, keeper, custodian, or harborer of  
9 the community cat(s).

10 b) Establishment of Community Cat Program.

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12 There is hereby established a Community Cat Program for the city, to be  
13 administered by the city through its office of animal control or its designee.

14 All cats that are part of the Community Cat Program shall:

- 15  
16 1) Upon initial capture, be assessed by a veterinarian and deemed healthy;  
17 2) Be sterilized;  
18 3) Be microchipped (optional);  
19 4) Be vaccinated against the threat of rabies;  
20 5) Be ear-tipped for easy identification; and  
21 6) After fulfillment of the above, be returned to the location at which it was  
22 found, which return shall not be considered abandonment.
- 23 c) If the requirements of subsection b) are met, the community cat is exempted  
24 from any licensing, stray, at-large, or other provisions of this chapter that apply  
25 to owned animals, except that, in no event shall a community cat be exempted  
26 from the nuisance provisions of this chapter. However, a community cat shall not  
27 be deemed a nuisance solely for running at large. Further, a community cat  
28 caretaker shall not be subject to the provisions of this chapter directed towards  
29 owners and owned animals.
- 30 d) A person may file a complaint with animal control stipulating a specific  
31 community cat problem. Animal control will offer education and tools, such as  
32 deterrents, to lessen any nuisance or it may require relocation or removal from  
33 the community cat program of any nuisance community cat
- 34 e) Nothing in this section shall prevent the office of animal control from picking up,  
35 receiving, or impounding a community cat for necessary medical treatment, and  
36 then releasing the cat when deemed medically appropriate by animal control or  
37 the animal control veterinarian.  
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5 **ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023.

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7  
8 Bill Borchert  
9 President of the Council  
10 Councilman at-Large

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13 Greg Cromer  
14 Mayor

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17 Thomas P. Reeves  
18 Council Administrator

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DELIVERED	3/15/23
11:15 am	to the Mayor
RECEIVED	3/27/23
9:30 am	from the Mayor