



Township of Woodbridge

John E. McCormac, CPA, Mayor

Department of Health and Human Services

Dennis M. Green, Director of Health

2 George Frederick Plaza • Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095

dennis.green@twp.woodbridge.nj.us

Tel: (732) 855-0600 • Fax: (732) 855-0887



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: March 20, 2017

Re: 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 Woodbridge Animal Group, a Non-profit 501 C 3 organization. The goal is to spay and neuter outside cats to prevent them from over breeding. WAG will provide both monetary and direct assistance to 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.

Annual Meeting For the Companion Animal Plan for Outside Cats

Do you care about Outside Cats?

**Woodbridge Health Department and the Animal Control Division
are seeking your input on outside cats in the community**

**The Animal Control “Outside Cats” program is part of the Town’s
Animal Companion Plan and the Sustainable Jersey program.**

**The Companion Animal Plan for Outside Cats 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**

**Come to the Annual Meeting to find out what the Town is doing
and make your voice heard**

**Meeting date: April 3, 2017 at 10:00 am
At the Woodbridge Animal Shelter
195 Woodbridge Ave, Sewaren**

Woodbridge Residents are encouraged to attend the next meeting.

**If should have any questions you may contact the Animal Control
Division at 732-855-0600 ext 5007**

Animal in the Community - Companion Animal Plan

Outreach Program for Outside Cats

April 3, 2017

Agenda

- 1. Outline of program.**
- 2. Status and activity of program.**
- 3. Awareness of program.**
- 4. WAG, Woodbridge Animal Group status.**
- 5. Funding.**
- 6. Areas where we need to focus on.**
- 7. Questions.**

Animal in the Community - Companion Animal Plan

Outreach Program for Outside Cats

April 3, 2017

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 10:00am by D. Green.

First order of business was to review the program for Outside Cats. The program flyer describing the program was provided to all in attendance.

Next for discussion was the current status of the ongoing outreach program for outside cats which is being handled by Shelter Staff and Woodbridge Animal Group. H. Campione stated that they have Spay/neutered approximately 100 cats from Woodbridge since last year and we will continue weekly spay/neutering as appropriate. She was asked if they needed anything to assist with the ongoing outreach. She stated that they always need volunteers for everything from fundraising to Shelter work. She further stated that they use Facebook to reach volunteers and assist residents with spay/neuter.

Eileen and Bob then stated that H. Campione has done a lot to turn the Shelter around and help animals in need, including cats. D. Green replied that he feels the Shelter has an excellent reputation in the community and this helps with the Companion Animal Plan implementation and reception by the community. The more people feel comfortable about the program the more people who will participate. He further stated that if residents do not cooperate and are in violation of the T.O. regarding outside cats and are not willing to spay/neuter to comply that we will send an ACO to that location to address the situation on a case by case basis.

Much conversation then centered on specific areas where issues have arisen and how to address them. Bordering towns have been an issue. All in attendance agreed that the program has been effective in reducing the number of outside cats.




Being no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Animal in the Community - Companion Animal Plan

Outreach Program for Outside Cats

April 3, 2017

Sign In Sheet

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Sign</u>
Dennis Green	WTHD, H.O.	
Heather Campione	Woodbridge Animal Control	
Eileen Zullo	Woodbridge Animal Group	
Dan Smith	RESIDENT	FOREST FICKER

Animal in the Community - Companion Animal Plan Outreach Program for Outside Cats

What is the issue? Outside cats (whether they are owned, strays or abandoned) often breed quickly and become a nuisance and health concern in neighborhoods. Residents often attempt to solve this problem by trapping and bringing the cat to the Shelter. Trapping and removing results in a burden on the Shelter and may lead to the destruction of the animal. The redemption rates for these cats are extremely low since these cats typically do not have identification.

How do we solve this problem? Have all outside cats properly cared for and neutered.

1. Encourage residents to properly care for, vaccinate and spay/neuter all outside cats.
2. Assist residents if they can not afford the cost of Spay/neuter.
3. Encourage all residents to licensed and tag cats for identification.

What is the goal? The goal is to improve responsible cat ownership and prevent unwanted cat breeding. Licensing and identification on animals will result in the animal's quick return to their owner if it is trapped or found. This will reduce the number of animals that enter the Shelter and the number euthanized.

What methods will be used to reach the goal?

1. Committee: Form an informal committee of persons who can suggest ideas and provide feedback on the issue.
 - a. Members
 - Dennis M. Green, Health Officer
 - Vince Ciuffo, Resident and Animal Control Supervisor
 - Heather Campione, Resident and Animal Shelter Supervisor
 - Tracy Orlick, Woodbridge Animal Group, WAG 501c3 non-profit
 - Animal Shelter Volunteer
2. Education: In order to achieve better vaccination and spay /neuter rates we will educate the community on the responsible ownership and the proper ways to care for and maintain outside cats.
3. In order to improve the redemption rates of stray/outside cats we will encourage all owners and cat caregivers to license and tag or microchip their pets. This will include a community canvas.
4. Standardize ACO response to outside cat complaints.
5. Partner with a non-profit animal rescue: WAG will assist the animal control division in reaching out to the community to educate residents and provide spay/neuter for outside cats.
6. Enforcement of new ordinance restricting feeding of outside cats unless they are spayed/neutered.

Regulations

T.O. 11-5.11 Humane Treatment Required.

a. Any person who shall own, keep or harbor a dog, cat or other pet shall provide it with proper and adequate food and water, proper shelter and protection from the weather and with humane care and treatment. No person shall beat, ill-treat, torment or otherwise abuse a dog, cat or other pet within the Township, including but not limited to failure to provide prompt veterinary services for an injured or unhealthy animal.

b. No person shall beat, ill-treat, torment, cause intentional injury to or otherwise abuse any animal, wild or domesticated, other than a dog, cat or other pet within the Township. Failure to properly trap an animal or failure to properly monitor a set trap which subsequently causes an animal to become ill or die shall be deemed to constitute abuse under this section.

c. No person shall feed an outside cat unless the cat is spayed or neutered.

Companion Animal Management – Reviewer comment says: "Excellent work. Please clarify how stakeholders were solicited for the development of this plan and how they contributed. The plan must also include measures by which to evaluate success. Please provide additional documentation to earn points."

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.

April 8, 2017



April is Youth Month!

For Student Volunteers
ages 8-14



Various fun crafts to
benefit the shelter
animals!

TIME:
10:00 AM - NOON

Spaces are limited!
Parents must sign up
their volunteers in
advance by
contacting the shelter
at 732-855-0600
X2034

Note: Peanut butter
may be used for treat
making. Volunteers
should wear play
clothes that may get
paint or ink on them.

John E. McCormac, Mayor
Dennis Green
Director, Health Department

May is Senior Month at the Woodbridge Animal Shelter & Pet Adoption Center!

Half-price adoption fees
for all senior pets
(8 years and older)

and All senior residents pay
half-price adoption fees
for any pet

195 Woodbridge Avenue, Sewaren, NJ

Adoption Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1-3 pm

Tuesday, Thursday 5-8 pm

Saturday 12-4 pm

Senior pets have so much love left to give!

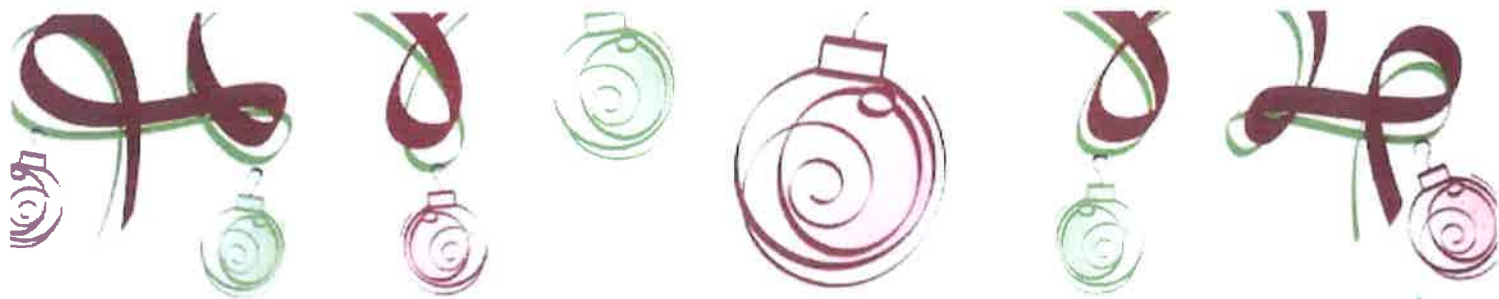


Home for the Holidays

*The Woodbridge Animal Shelter
wants your lost pet to return
home....*

Thru the month of December

**FREE  microchips
for lost pets that are redeemed
(Redemption fee applies)**



WOODBIDGE ANIMAL SHELTER

50% OFF ALL ADOPTIONS

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26TH



DOORS OPEN EARLY! 11AM-4PM

***FREEBIES *DOOR PRIZES**

***REFRESHMENTS**



WE WANT YOU!

**\$25.00 CAT
ADOPTION FEES!**

**ALL CATS
ALL AGES**



JULY CAT ADOPTION EVENT

**At The Woodbridge Animal Shelter
and Pet Adoption Center**

195 Woodbridge Avenue, Sewaren, NJ

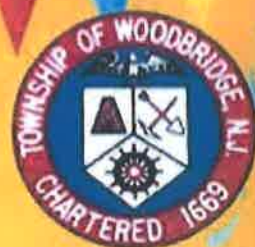
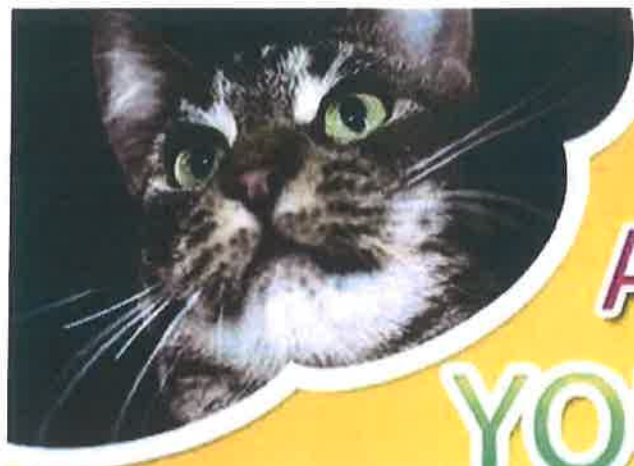
For shelter hours visit:

www.woodbridgeanimalgroup.com/woodbridge-animal-shelter

Like us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/WoodbridgeAnimalGroup

Approved adoption application required.



April is YOUTH MONTH

HAVING FUN TOGETHER AND HELPING SHELTER PETS!

ACTIVITIES FOR THE FIRST FOUR SATURDAYS IN APRIL

FOR STUDENT VOLUNTEERS AGES 8-14

TIME: 11:00 AM - NOON

ACTIVITIES

APRIL 2: CRAFTING SIGNS FOR UPCOMING SHELTER EVENTS

APRIL 9: CRAFTING CAT BEDS FOR THE SHELTER CATS

APRIL 16: MAKING FROZEN DOG TREATS*

APRIL 23: CRAFTING THANK YOU CARDS FOR OUR ADOPTERS!

SPACES ARE LIMITED - PARENTS MUST SIGN UP THEIR VOLUNTEERS IN ADVANCE BY CONTACTING THE SHELTER AT 732-855-0600 X2034.

*NOTE: PEANUT BUTTER WILL BE USED FOR DOG TREAT MAKING
VOLUNTEERS SHOULD WEAR PLAY CLOTHES THAT MAY GET PAINT OR INK ON THEM



John E. McCormac, Mayor
Dennis Green
Director, Health Department

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.



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