

**AN ORDINANCE**

**APPROVING AND AMENDING THE CHARLESTON COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 3, ANIMALS AND FOWL, TO ADD A SECTION ESTABLISHING A FREE ROAMING CAT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Charleston County Council finds that free roaming cats threaten the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Charleston County; and

WHEREAS, Charleston County Council finds that intact free roaming cats contribute to the problem of strays and animal overpopulation, and the County seeks to reduce the free roaming cat population by instituting a program that will achieve that end; and

WHEREAS, by instituting such a program Charleston County Council seeks to obtain the goal to include ownership of free roaming cats when possible and to ensure that yearly vaccinations of the free roaming cats will occur; and

WHEREAS, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals will provide initial funding for two years to local animal care organizations for the establishment of a Free Roaming Cat Program ("Program"); and

WHEREAS, it is expressly understood that funding will come from other agencies within the County when the initial funding expires, and if no funding for the Program exists then the Program will be suspended until funding can be reestablished; and

WHEREAS, Charleston County Council finds that it is in the best interests of the Program to allow the designated agencies the power to create the Program and develop rules and regulations to implement the Program; and

WHEREAS, Charleston County Council finds that it is in the best interests of Charleston County and its citizens to amend the Charleston County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3, Animals and Fowl, to add a section establishing a Free Roaming Cat Program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be ordained it by Charleston County Council, in meeting duly assembled, finds as follows:

#### SECTION I. FINDINGS INCORPORATED

The above recitals and findings are incorporated herein by reference and made a part of this Ordinance.

#### SECTION II. TEXT AMENDMENT

A. The Charleston County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3, Animals and Fowl, is amended by adding a new subsection titled Free Roaming Cat Program, Section 3-16 that reads as follows:

1. Free roaming cats shall be allowed in Charleston County as long as all of the following requirements are met:
  - (a) Cat must be spayed or neutered.
  - (b) Cat must be microchipped.
  - (c) Cat must be vaccinated for rabies, feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, and panleukopenia.
  - (d) Cat must be ear tipped.

B. The Charleston Animal Society (“CAS”) shall be the designated shelter and will work with the Humane Net Collaboration to develop rules and regulations for the Program. CAS shall create and develop rules and regulations for the Program. These rules and regulations shall be reviewed by County Council and, if approved, adopted by resolution of County Council prior to implementation of the Program.

C. The County may review the Program two (2) years after its inception to assess its functionality and success.

SECTION III. SEVERABILITY

If, for any reason, any part of this Ordinance is invalidated by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining portions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance becomes effective upon approval following Third Reading.

ADOPTED and APPROVED in meeting duly assembled this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2009.

CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Teddie E. Pryor, Sr.  
Chairman

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Beverly T. Craven  
Clerk of Council