



**Public Hearing**  
**Date: March 5, 2025**  
**Time: 2:00 pm**

**Proposed revisions to the Lake County Code of Ordinances Chapter 172: Animals**  
**Proposed revisions to the Animal Care and Control Fees Schedule**

**Location of Hearing: Lake County Central Permit Facility, 500 W. Winchester Rd.,  
Libertyville, IL**

**LCHD/EH Staff Present:**

Larry Mackey, Director, Environmental Health – Hearing Officer  
Mike Adam, Deputy Director of Environmental Health  
Robin Van Sickle, Animal Care and Control Program Coordinator  
Gaby Ocampo, Executive Assistant, Prevention – Recording Secretary

**Others Present from the Public:**

Sandy Gordon	Gina Ressler
Janet Ward	Jeanne Herton
Susan Davis	Jen Freels

**Hearing Called to Order at 2:01 pm by Larry Mackey.**

**Introductions and Notifications:** Larry Mackey introduced himself, Lake County Health Department staff members present and referenced the changes proposed. He went on to list the notifications of the hearing that were made per Board of Health By-Laws and the hearing process. He made the request of the Recording Secretary to include all notices, documents and exhibits in the official record of the hearing.

**Public Comments/Questions:** Mackey read into the record two written comments which were received by the established deadline of 5:00 pm, March 4, 2025.

Comment 1 received via email on March 3, 2025, at 11:37 pm expressed support for the use of "Definition of Owner" in ordinance (Chapter) 172.02.

Comment 2 received via email on March 4, 2025, at 4:35 pm expressed concerns or asked questions as follows:

1. Requested clarification on the difference in the definitions between owner, caretaker and harbinger to assure that a feral cat colony (TNR) caretaker cannot be cited for a colony cat running at large.
2. Expressed the need for providing education regarding pets vs. at-large animals (including feral cats).
3. Stated that fee schedule includes a fee for distemper vaccinations, but should also include the cost for rabies vaccinations.
4. Requested clarification regarding the transportation fee for TNR cats collected from a municipality, asking why that fee is assessed to both the municipality and the colony caretaker.
5. Asked why boarding fees are assessed when TNR cats are taken in.
6. Appealed for a limit on the fees they should pay as Spay & Stay is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

Members of the public in attendance asked the Hearing Officer to provide a response to the clarifications requested in the emailed comment, as it came from their organization (Spay and Stay). Mackey agreed to address the questions and concerns in the hearing but noted that the intent and purpose of the hearing was to receive public comment. Mackey and/or Van Sickle responded to the six above concerns as follows:

1. Mackey explained that by striking the definition of “owner” from Chapter 172, the ordinance adopts the “owner” definition from the Illinois Animal Control Act by reference. As such, a TNR colony caretaker is not considered the owner of a TNR cat, and cannot be cited for a TNR cat running at large because only an owner can be cited for that violation.
2. Chapter 172 requires that AC&C staff provide a minimum of three educational programs per year and Mackey agreed that LCHD is willing to work with Spay and Stay to incorporate TNR information.
3. Mackey pointed out that the fee for rabies vaccination is in the fees schedule, though in a different section from the distemper vaccination fee.
4. Mackey and Van Sickle explained that the only time a transportation fee is assessed is when AC&C staff go out to impound a cat from a municipality. It is never assessed to both the municipality and a caretaker. Van Sickle offered to look into any case where that is alleged to have happened in the past.
5. Van Sickle explained that a boarding fee is assessed any time a TNR cat (or any animal) is taken in and placed into a cage or kennel because that space needs to be prepared before and cleaned/sanitized after. A day is not specifically inclined, but the first day of boarding starts the day the animal is taken in.
6. Van Sickle explained that the Lake County Animal Care and Control Program Administrative Procedures and Policies specify reduced fees are assessed for TNR cats, as permitted in the Animal Care and Control Fees Schedule.

No further comments were received.

**Next Steps:** Mackey described the steps to be taken to present the proposed changes to the Board of Health and County Board. The next possible Board of Health meeting where the revisions can be presented is April 30, 2025. The dates for presentation to the County Board Committees (Health and Community Services, and Financial and Administrative), and the full County Board are to be determined.

**The hearing was adjourned at 2:20 pm by Larry Mackey**